INSIDE THE TABLOID

IN THE TABLOID

6 PAGES OF FILMS

OBITUARY p16 SPORT p26 & p28 **ENIS COMPTON:**

PORT'S FIRST **JPERSTAR**

6 Think again. Look in my eyes and know this: I will always deal fair and true?

and Anthony Bevins

John Major last night stepped up his election campaign with an amazing appeal to voters -"look in my eyes" - and to back him rather than his party.

all to play for, the Conservative leader made a savage personal-attack on Tony Blair as a man who breaks his promises, and

• Tories have stopped running their New

Labour, New Danger poster with a red-eyed Mr Blair 🤊

someone with a "whiff of arrogance" about him.

But it was the plea to the elec-torate to pul their trust in him, rather than his party, that marked the change of Tory tactics. In an italicised passage of a text issued in Aherdeeo last night, Mr Major said: "I appeal to you. Don't let whatever donbts you may have had about the Conservative Party in the past weigh with you, when the future of the United Kingdom

may be at stake. Think about it. Think seriously. Think again, look in my eyes and know this. I will always

QUICKLY

Co-op goes on offensive The Co-operative Wholesale Ine Co-operative Wholeshe Society went on the offensive against Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust yesterday, accusing the 31-year old entrepreneur of encouraging Co-op employees to "steal to or-der". It threatened continued legal action and sold it would press for damages against Mr Regan and his "fellow conspirators". Page 22

Yacoub escapes claim A couple whose son was left brain-damaged after a heart transplant, carried out by Sir Magdi Yacoub, lost their claim for damages yesterday after a judge ruled they had been properly warned of the risks. Page 3

Peruvian plaudits
Tuesday night's assault on the
Japanese Ambassador's resince in Lima. in which 71 of 72 hostages were freed from the Tupac Amaru guerrillas bolding them, was one of the most successful anti-terrorist

Operations ever

deal fair and true by this great

Mr Major was exploiting the undoubted fact that he is more popular with the voters than his party, fractious and divided as it is. But last night's appeal was also a gamble on the public's With just one week to go, and willingness to see the election as a presidential contest be-

tween two party leaders. With Labour officials warning of the "nightmare" prospect of a fifth Tory term, and the confirmation of a one-party state. Mr Blair's positive campaign esterday turned to a new initiative to create a special "People's Lottery" fund, to divert £1bn into popular causes like education and health.

But the Tories last night delivered a diversionary coup by publishing a copy of an old Labour election "War Book" setting out strategic campaign targets. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, said the document, sent to the Tories in a plain brown envelope" six months ago, indicat-ed a campaign based on "smear

and scare". He suggested that the leak could have come from a Labour Party worker who was as ap-palled by "the cynical attitude of those he was working with as the rest of the country will be when they see this document". All parties have "War Books'.

setting out day-by-day cam-paign strategies, but they nor-mally remain confidential, and Labour said last night that the document that had been sent to the Conservatives was a year old, out of date, and did not m-clude its election masterplan.



The document's summary of-Labour weaknesses, it was said, were not Labour assessments. hut rather a summary of Conscivatives views.

While Tory campaign strategists are facusing on private polling-showing the voters do not trust Mr Blair, Labour campaign managers have ooted that the Tories have stopped running their "New Labour, New Danger poster, with a red-eyed Mr Blair.

They believe that such vicious personal attacks are provoking voter hostility. Nevertheless, Mr Major last

night went for the Labour leader in a strong personal at-

Letters, page 17

Leading article, page 17

Polly Toynbee,

Comment, page 19

tack, questioning his finises for office - attacks that will be reinforced in the final days of the campaign.

Contrasting his own leader-ship style with Mr Blair's, Mr Major said: "Like me or loathe me, on the issues I put before you today you know where I

He accused Mr Blair of having "shifted and shuffled and shifted again" on his plans for a Scottish parliament with taxraising powers. "I do not truly believe Mr Blair understands Scotland. I wonder sometimes how much he even cares for Scotland. More and more re-

cently he has seemed to care

INSIDE

Taxes: the blg unanswered questions

Election countdown, pages 8-12

more for the use he can make convenience, and seeking powof Scotland.

"His policy combines a sense of carelessness with a whiff of arrogance that I for one find slightly unappealing ... Mr Blair seems incapable of keeping to one policy for more than a few

Ridiculing Mr Blair as "the young mastermind" who said pass" to questions in the campaign, Mr Major said the Labour leader "in all his experience may oot realise that these questions, unanswered, might eventually do our Union to death.

He accused Mr Blair of changing policy to suit his own

* THE INDEPENDENT

er for its own sake - to win whatever the price. "I see the Labour red is changing to an imperial purple - and I see a man carried away by his own propaganda. How many more promises does Mr Blair have to break before the people of Britain understand his true nature?"

Warning that Mr Blair would "sell out" Britain in Europe, Mr Major said Labour posed three great threats to Britain - more power for the unions, a soft touch for a federal Europe and paving the way for separatism with Scotland. "Labour, led by Mr Blair, will destroy British prosperity, risk dividing Britain and put us on the escalator to

a federal Europe.": Labour received a dual boost last night from opinion polls which showed its support holding up, and the announcement that Alan Sugar, the ar-chetypal Thatcherite hoss of computer company Amstrad, has switched allegiaoce to

Labour is 19 per cent ahead of the Conservatives, according a Gallap poll for ITN's Channel 4 News.

Travel firms' staff paid to inform on customers

lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Britain's travel agents are being paid to operate as undercover drug informants. High street sales staff, along with booking agents for airlines and ferries, are giveo substantial cash rewards by HM Customs in return for tip-offs about suspected drug-runners and mooey lauo-

Customs and Excise officers are also providing training and advice for would-be informers about how to spot a criminal, and a hotline to report them. Successful "snouts" can earn from £50 to as much as £10,000 in exceptional cases.

It is understood that one of the four largest travel agents gets about 20 reports of suspicious customers every day, although the majority of these are

false alarms. The use of informants is being encouraged in all parts of

the travel industry. British Airways is offering to pay its staff extra bonuses, in addition to any Customs rewards, for positive reports. Assistance from BA staff at Loodon airports helped Castoms officers make 56 drug seizures, worth about £7m, in the first six

months of last year. Travel agents are eocour-aged to look out for holidaymakers acting suspiciously. Among the tell-tale signs are customers who pay for holidays or flights with large sums of cash, have new passports (they may be forged), are oot interested in getting a cheap deal, take trips to well known drug ceotres such as Holland, Jamaica, and Thailand, and who

pay at the last minute. A Customs spokesman said:

"We are after things that will arose peoples' suspicion, which might be connected with drug-

smuggling.
"Occasionally the ioformation leads to seizures and arrests but more often it adds another piece to the jigsaw."

He added: "If someooe gave

us the names, dates and delivery, of a major drugs operation they could get from £20,000 to £30,000 reward, but this is not the kind of detailed information travel agents come across."

The drugs hotline - 0800 595000 - receives about 2,500 calls a month, although the proportion of these that are made by travel agents is un-

Travel companies were quick yesterday to play down the idea that their staff had become paid spies.

Thomas Cook, the fourth largest travel agent, trains all new employees about how to identify suspected criminals. A spokeswoman said: "They have a prompt card with key points to look out for."

Details of suspicious customers are passed on to the courages employees collecting reward money.

Lunn Poly, Britain's largest travel agent, confirmed it has "security procedures" which were used by staff to identify poteotial offenders, but refused to discuss any of the details. A spokeswoman denied that staff received cash rewards: "There's oo sanction from head office [for Customs] to recruit staff." Informers are increasingly being used to help tackle the growing drug problem. There were record seizures last year,

which rose by 6 per ceot to

115,000, the highest ever. AN

INSTANT

START TO

Elephants on pill trample family values

Johannesburg

Any proponent of sound cooservative family values could have told them how it would end. In a world first, wild ele-phants were introduced to the Pill. Now, six months later, the bold experiment has gone disastrously wrong. Elephant society is falling apart.

After six months of intervention in South Africa's Kruger National Park, the resulting possibilities of elephantine free love have proved a social disaster. On offer was jumbo-sized birth control. The result was social and sexual mayhem.

instrument of population con-

It has been discovered that specially-designed hormone implants, the park's pioneering

trol, leave females permanently oo heat and create rampag-ing bulls, trapped in a state of perpetual – and dangerous – sexual excitement. "The bulk want to constantly

mate with the females," complained Douw Grobler, the. Kruger Park vet responsible. Female elephants usually on heat just two days in every 17

weeks, had been hot for an entire six mooths at a time. Dr Grobler said the cows were being constantly harassed. Wherever they went, a long line of bulls trailed behind them. "At one stage there were eight bulls around one cow," he

added. "This is unacceptable." The oestrogen implants, injected into sedated females, work along the same lines as the pill in womeo. They have achieved their contraceptive unflagging - not to say embar-rassing - attention of the bulls. But families have broken

down. In the explosive sexual atmosphere, responsibilities are forgonen. Two baby ele-phants have gone missing and are presumed dead. Dr Grobler and his staff believe they strayed from home because their mothers were permacently distracted.

The elephant pill's unforeseen effects will encourage critics who condemned the controversial programme from the start as an extravagant waste of money, driven by human sentimentality.

Raral development groups argued elephants should be free to have as many calves as they pleased, and to expand

aim. In six mooths no cow has their families to the size God become pregnant despite the intended. Rural African communities could then kill and eat

Mr Grobler admitted yesterday that the programme was motivated by a sentimental desire to create a painless method of population control which would keep herds small, happy and well cared for. The idea of simply letting popula-tions explode and culling later he said was considered "barbaric" by some.

Mr Grobler now acknowledges the Kruger was misguided. Unwanted pregnancies have been prevented but the social cost has been too high a price to pay. Yesterday he said the pro-

gramme was been shelved, and the behaviour of elephants closely watched to ensure it



Dacre, editor of the Daily Mail, was unavailable for

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THE BROADSHEE	T`
Business & City	.20-22
Comment	.17-19
Crossword	28
Election '97	8-12

Foreign news13-15 THE TABLOID Home news2-7

Arts reviews19



Howard rebuffed by Belfast judge in IRA jail review

Annther judicial rebuff was handed down to Michael Howard, the

Annther judicial rebuff was handed down to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday when a "whole life" prison tariff nn two IRA bombers was overruled by e High Court judge in Belfast.

Mr Justice Kerr said Mr Howard had wrongly declined to explain why he had departed from the view of the trial judge and the furner Home Secretary, David Waddington, when increasing the minimum term to be served by Paul Kavanagh and Thomas Quigley, who were convicted at the Old Bailey in 1985 of three murders arising out of two London bombings.

The trial judge, Mr Justice McCowan, fixed the tariff at 35 years, later increased in 50 by Mr Waddington, but the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, had said he would not release them at all. Quashing Mr Howard's decision to revise the tariff up tn whnle life. Mr Justice Kerr said: "I consider that the Home Secretary was obliged to explain why he was minded to depart from the judicial view expressed by Mr Justice McCowan and to increase the tariff beyond that which had been fixed by the former home secretary."

'Dangerous' killer on the run

A convicted murderer was on the run after escaping from prison.

police said yesterday.

Frank Winson-Smith, 31, went missing from Wellingborough
Prison, Northants. Winson-Smith was serving a life sentence plus an 11-year sentence. Police said he was "dangerous and unpredictable" and should not be epproached.

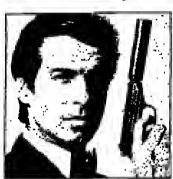
New corruption trial for Army officer

The jury trying a senior Army afficer on corruption charges was discharged at London's Southwark Crown Court yesterday and a

mew trial ordered to hegin today.

Major Jnhn Ewart, 51. of Dilton marsh in Wiltshire, was responsible fir ordering food for the British garrison in Berlin, denies taking "well over" £100,000 in "hackhanders" in return for feeding lucrative contracts to a British company.

James Bond picks German marque



James Bond is driving a German car again in his next movie, it emerged yesterday. Actor Pierce Brosnan (pictured) will have a BMW 750i executive saloon in the new film, Tomorrow Never Dies, which is due to be released in December

BMW fnught off stiff competition from Jaguar and Astnn Martin to secure the agreement - and it looks as though the famous Aston Martin DB5 has definitely driven out of Q's equally famous workshop for the last time.

Contract killers get life jail terms

The daughters of accountant David Wilson finally put a five-year nrdeal behind them last night after watching the contract killers

who executed their father receive life jail terms.

The nightmare for Michelle Wilson, 31, and her younger sister
Lisa, 29, began when hitmen Stephen Playle and Michael Crossley
burst juto their luxury Lancashire home on March 5, 1992 and shot

The murder led a Lancashire Police team on a trail that took them halfway across the world as they brought to justice the sinister American criminal Michael Austin, who ordered the murder, and his UK middleman Stephen Schepke, both now serving life sentences.

It came full circle at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday when Mr Justice Mantell sent friends Crossley and Playle to prison for life.

Royal bodyguard on guns charges

Royal Protection Squad policeman Michael Coulton was remanded in custody when he opp

charges yesterday.

Mr Coultna, 52, appeared before magistrates in Bracknell. Berks, on three firearms charges, which allege that on a date between February 23 and April 22 he was in possession of a home-made firearm with intent to endanger life. A second charge related tn the possession of the hame-made firearm without holding a firearms certificate. He was also charged with possessing e machine

Equity agrees actors' pay rise

Equity leaders yesterday agreed new minimum pay fin actors of £225 a week from this year. Actors' minimum pay will rise to £250 a week from April 1998, and by inflation plus 2 per cent from April 1999. A new company and stage manager grade has also been introduced with minimum pay of £261 a week from April 1997.

Frozen food threat to UK bats

Freezing nights are causing hats to starve because they have caused their insect food supply in die out. The hets were encouraged nut nf hibernation by the warm spells of early Spring, but the frosts have left them little in the way nf moths and other night flyers to

"I've never seen so many malnourished hats at this time of year," said hat expert Patty Briggs of the Bat Conservation Trust.

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Tantrums and tears as Terre'Blanche convicted

war, was yesterday convicted of attempting to ... who attended the trial. Throughout the proceedings murder a former black employee and assaulting another. ... the fat white AWB members sat and forced the blacks. ... The verdict on the country's most infamous white ... to stand at the back of the country one. supremacist led to extraordinary scenes in the Potchefstroom Magistrates Court, which was packed with camstroom Magistrates Court, which was packed with camtestified against his base; but asked for police
outlage fatigued followers of Terre Blanche's Afrikainer protection and claimed his benployer had assaulted.

The large and hefty AWB leader, whom black
Terre Blanche was found guilty of attempting to
witnesses sald they were afraid to testify against, fought, murder Paul Motstabi Motstabi hobbled into court we

winesses said they were afraid to testify against, fought back tears as he accused magistrate Ctris Eisteen, ludical head of this uttra conservative rural "dorp" in North-West Province, of becoming the accomplice of the African National Congress. "You are a traitor the judgment is a political judgment," he said.

There were more tears when ball was set at 2,000. The AWB int intermediate and promised he would not to abscord before sentencing on June 17. The judge reduced ball by half. Bobustasivana "independent hometands and promised he would not to abscord before sentencing on June 17. The judge reduced ball by half. Bobustasivana "independent hometands an attempt."

Potchelstroom is at the heart of AWB country.

Billie-Jo's mother

in tearful exit

from funeral

The natural mother of Billie-Jo Jenkins (right) missed her daugh-ter's funeral yesterday, after storm-ing nut of the chapel in tears when the murdered teenager's foster

mother arrived uninvited. Debble

the foster mother, Lois Jenkins,

service in east London for the

popular 13-year-old.

Woods had specifically asked that

should stay away from the packed

Ms Woods entered the chapel

after the horse-drawn carriage car-

rying Billie-Jn's 5ft white coffin had

most 300 of the teenager's friends

and relations, clinging to each oth-

er for support in their grief, many of whom had made the journey from Billie-Jo's home town of

But then Mrs Jenkins, whose

estranged husband Sion has been charged with Billie-Jo's murder, ar-

rived for the service with her four

daughters. As soon as ahe walked

into the chapel, just moments be-fore the service was due to begin,

Ms Woods looked around, saw her

Mourners watched in ehock as

Ms Woods then ran out of the

chapel in tears followed by her

away from the City of London

boyfriend. The cruple then drove

Cemetery and missed the service

Sion Jenkins, who is currently

Hastings, East Sussex.

and froze in horror.

as well as the burial.

arrived. She was followed by al-

sugene Terre Blanche, the neo-Nazi many once. Apartheid may be gone but here our many once. Apartheid may be gone but here our many once. Awa members multinely insulted and infimidated blacks.

I feared would plunge South Africa into bloody civil. AWB members multinely insulted and infimidated blacks.

Who altended the trial. Throughout the proceedings.

Maurius Ofiver, who worked for Terre Blanche, testified against his bass, but asked for police protection and claimed his employer had assaulted.

Four-year-old 'Tiger' tees off

He ie more of a tiger cub than a Figer Woods, but four-year-old Rubert Aldred's precocious golfing skille have prompted his father to predict he will be the next prodigy on the greens.

Robert has surprised golfers at his local club with his "unbelievable" ability. According to his father, Bob, he has managed to par several three- and four-par holes of up to 345 yards in length. He can also drive a golf ball up to 140

As a result, he has achievedwhat many a social-climbing executive can only dream of free membership of his local golf club, at Warley in the West

Mr Aldred said that if his son sses at the same rate he could be Britain's answer to Tiger Woods, who recently became the youngest winner of the US Masters at the age of 21.

"I'm absolutely gabsmacked by ome of the things he has done, Mr Aldred said at his home in War-

"He is the equivalent of a single figure handicapper given some of the things he does. His drives are unbelievable - he can hit them 80-

90 yarde every time." A spokesman for the Profession al Gulfers' Association said: Robert has obviously taken to the game naturally and he could be a

briefing

SCHOOLS

Problem governors drive head teachers to retirement

Feeble and inefficient governors are driving head teachers to early retirement, according to a survey published yesterday. The study, by the National Association of Head Teachers, says that more than half of heads believe their governors either cannot or will not do their ich

their job.

Others, say heads, interfere too much. They complain that some are trying to change the curriculum for political reasons, while others are storming into classrooms and telling teachers how to teach. Government reforms have given 300,000 school governors, unpaid volunteers, unprecedented powers to manage budgets, unpaid volunteers, unprecedented powers to manage budgets, unpaid volunteers, unprecedented powers to manage budgets. monitor the curriculum and appoint and dismiss staff.

The survey, of 150 heads in the London region, tried to discover

why so many were leaving their posts early and why about 40 per cent of headships in the capital were not filled at the first attempt.

Ill-health, long hours, governors, government reforms and new inspections organised by the Office for Standards in Education were all given as reasons. The support found that \$2 per cent of were all given as reasons. The survey found that 53 per cent of heads felt their governors were not effective.

HEALTH

Sunbeds more dangerous than sun Sunbeds emit three times as many ultra-violet "A" rays as the sun

itself, putting those who use them at risk of skin cancer and skin damage, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund warned yesterday. But more women are suffering from what the charity dubs "tanorexia" – the dangerous desire to have a permanent tan and use suppose more than area a warsh

"tanorexia" — the dangerous desire to have a permanent ran and nee sunbeds more than nace a week.

An average 30-minute sunbed session will give you the equivalent UVA dose as a day baking on the beach. There are three types of ultra-violet rays — UVA, UVB and UVC. UVC is the strongest, but is prevented from reaching the earth by the ozone layer. UVB is the most damaging to the skin and is particularly linked to skin cancers. Until a few years ago doctors thought that IVA was cafe. However there is now growing evidence that over-UVA was safe. However there is now growing evidence that overexpesure to UVA may cause skin cancer – especially in its most serious form, melan

It also affects the middle layer of the skin, or dermis, damaging elastin and collagen. Injury to this layer is responsible for lines and wrinkles and sagging skin. Glenda Cooper



MEDICINE

Sharks may hold cancer key

Sharks may provide a means of attacking cancer that is to be tested for the first time in patients later this year. An extract from shark tissue called squalamine, discovered in the stomach of the dog fish,. is thought to prevent tumours from growing by cutting off their

It was discovered by researchers working for Magainin
Pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology company based in Plymouth
Meeting, Pennsylvania, USA. Chairman Jay Moorin told New
Scientist magazine: "We were looking for antibiotics in the shark
tissue but instead we found a whole family of new compounds that

The compounds are believed to act as a primitive immune system in the shark because they kill infectious microbes. Of the 1S compounds discovered, squalamine showed the most promise as an anti-cancer agent. Other substances have shown potential as

Trials of the drug are expected to begin in the autumn in patients with brain or breast cancer, New Scientist said. The idea is to use it to prevent a relapse, rather than as e primary treatment.

MOTORING

Swedish security second to none

Swedish car manufacturer Volvo produces the most secure vehicles, according to a study of cars on British roads carried out for motor insurers Eagle Star Direct. The next most secure vehicles are

Nissans, fallowed by Jaguars, Renaults, Mercedes and Fords.

The company said it was not giving details of manufacturers at the bottom of its list. "We recently revealed that the UK has the worst car crime in Europe and that Leeds is the worst city for crime, so we wanted a good news story this time," said a spokesman.

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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on bail, did not attend the service.

He is accused of bludgeoning Bil-lie-In to death as she painted the

patio doors of her foster family's

home in Hastings on 15 February.

she is married to the man charged

ehould really have respected Deb-

Debbie is heartbroken at not

being able to see her daughter be-

ing laid to rest. It is a tragedy for

ins defended her, saying: "She loved Billie-Jn so much that she

could not bear not in come to the

funeral with her four daughters."

with murdering Billie-Jo and she

ble's wishes and stayed away to

prevent further grief.

afterwards: "Lois is abviously grieving as much as anyone but

A friend of Ms Woods explained















社 Think Wood

The Timber Trade Federation, 26-27 Oxendon Street, London SWIY 4EL

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RECYCLING

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A passion for Shakespeare plays inspired the painter Philip Sutton, RA, to spend two years depicting the bard and his work. The fruits of his labour of love will be exhibited in London part month. in London next month.

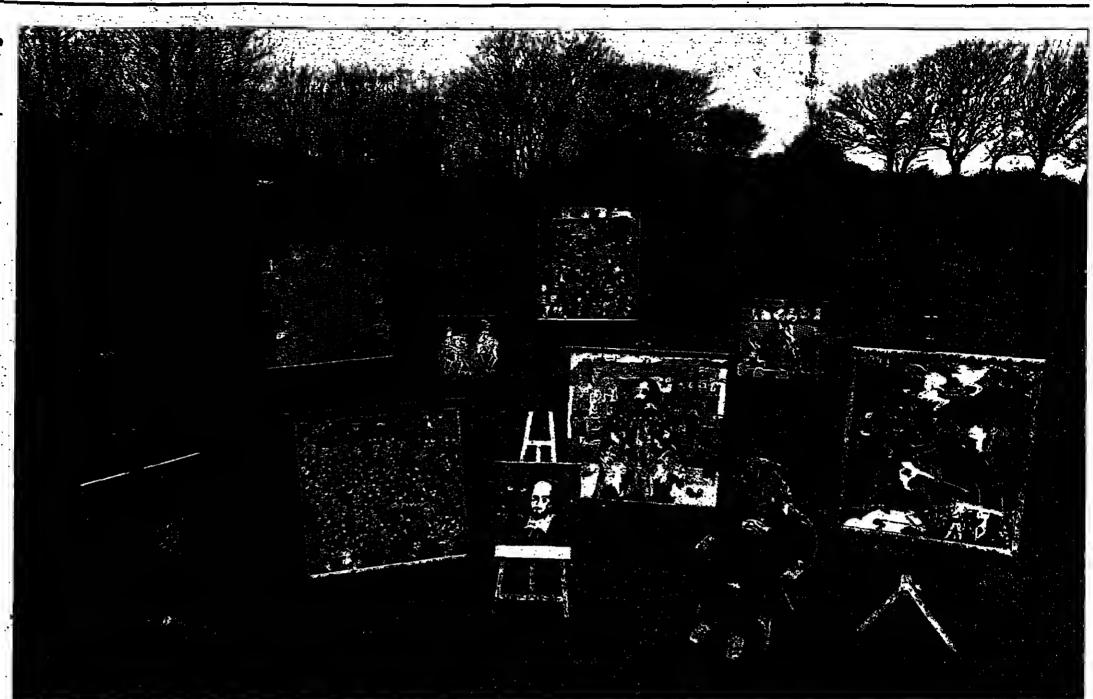
The exhibition, sponsored by Halifax, will start out at the Royal Academy of Arts and the Globe Theatre and then travel to Leeds' Royal Armouries Museum via Stratford-upon-Avon, the hirthplace of Shakespeare, who died 381 years ago yesterday. Sutton, 69, began work in his.

studio in Manorbier, near Tenby, in Wales, with Henry V, Elizabethan England, France and the battle of Agincourt. "It has been a great revelation to me that I could translate that particular part of English histo-ry into something I could do myself," he said. "It combined the ideas I had many years ago of dress-

ing things up - the theatre of life.

"One thing that struck me about Henry V marching his army through France," said Mr Sutton, explaining the presence of farm animals in his paintings, "was that 15,000 men went through the countryside, hut farmers and people round about would have remained undisturbed, even though the action was taking place not far away.

Zoe Wanamaker, whose father, Sam, was responsible for resurrecting the Globe Theatre, summed up Mr Sutton's work: "Joy, energy and colour, I think that's the secret." Sutton is the latest in a line of English painters inspired by Shake-



صكدا من الأصل

Labour of love: Phillp Sutton displaying some of the paintings which were Inspired by his passion for the works of Shakespeare

Photograph: Brian Harris

Yacoub cleared of negligence

Parents lose claim for damages over brain-damaged son

A couple whose son was left. cent chance of survival for their not opposed to orthodox medbrain damaged after a heart son through surgery, or certain icine and gave Matthew the transplant carried out by Sir. death, most other parents faced, drugs he was prescribed. But Magdi Yacoub lost their claim with the same situation would for damages yesterday after a judge ruled they had been prop-

erly warned of the risks. Kevin and Linda Poynter said they would never have allowed the operation by Britain's leading heart transplant surgeon to go ahead had they had an inkling of what the outcome might be. They said they would have preferred to let their 16month-old son Matthew die in peace, and only agreed to the transplant after being put under pressure by the medical team.

But Sir Maurice Drake, giving judgment in the High Court, rejected the claim that the doctors had been too zealous or had underplayed the risks. He found that the couple had not asked directly about the risk of brain damage and that it would have

For 17 years Professor Sir Magdi

Yacoub has led the heart transplant

programme in Britain. With his huge domed forehead and dark, brooding

eyes peering out above a triefitre mask he has become one of medi-

cine's few, instantly recognisable.

He operated on his first patient at

Harefield hospital in January 1980, a few months after Sir Terence English

had performed the first successful

transplant in the United Kingdom at

Papworth hospital, Cambridgeshire.

faces, writes Jeremy Laurance.

also have consented.

The outcome means Mr and Mrs Poynter, of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, who were legally aided, must continuing caring for Matthew, now aged 10. without financial help. He is profoundly brain damaged and needs round-the-clock care.

. The couple are vegetarians and were resistant to the idea of a transplant. Mr Poynter, an osteopath, told the court: "The heart is not just a pump, it is part of the person, part of the mind, body and soul".

Matthew, who was born in August 1986, developed a heart condition in which the left ventricle became enlarged. He was seen at the local hospital in Stevenage by a cardiologist from Harefield who referred the

been unlikely to have altered haby to the heart transplant cen-their decision if they had. Faced tre. According to their solicitor, with the prospect of an 80 per Tom Osborne, the couple were

they were against a transplant.

However, the doctors at Harefield persuaded them that they had no rational case for opposing it. They were told that either the boy would die in a few days or he would live for two or three years a near oormal life.

They felt they had oo choice." The transplant was a success and the new heart still functions 10 years later. Matthew was the 30th child in the country to receive a heart transplant and one of the youngest. But he was so ill at the time of the operation that he suffered a cardiac arrest when given the anaesthetic and his heart was kept going with massage for 30 minutes until he could be attached to a heart-bynass machine. It is believed the brain damage occurred dur-

ing this period.

Brooding pioneer at the heart of Britain's transplant programme

Although neither man courted

publicity, the patrician Sir Terence,

with his fondness for country walks.

contrasted with the missionary style

of Sir Magdi who seemed truly ful-

filled only in the operating theatre.

lentless demands on staff and re-

those who saw other specialties de-

accepted part of the surgical reper-

toire. More than 300 operations a

year are performed in Britain and

pleted. Now heart transplants are an

sources provoked criticism from

in the early days, Sir Magdi's re-

He is the only one of the 177 children who have had heart transplants at Harefield who has suffered brain damage.

Sir Magdi told the court the risk was so small - less than 1 per cent - that he would not tell parents about it unless specifi-

Transplant surgeons yesterday agreed it was impractical, and could be unwise, to tell patients of every conceivable risk. Bob Johnson, kidney surgeon and chairman of the British Transplant Society, said: "We tell patients about the classical risks - of dying, of the organ being rejected, of side-effects of the immuno-suppressant drugs. But you can't go through every remote risk"

JAfterwards, the couple's solicitor said that the £250,000 cost of the legal battle against Hillingdon Health Authority would have been better spent on healthcare for children like Matthew than in forcing the authority to respect parents views.

Harefield is among the world's lead-

ing centres. Last year, Harefield com-

pleted its 2,000th heart transplant. Half the patients are still alive. Today,

a new patient has a 60 per cent

Britain's longest survivor, Derrick Morris, aged 65, was Sir Magdi's third patient and has lived for 16

Sir Magdi, 60, has given no hint

keeps a punishing schedule, working

that he is thinking of retiring. He still

long hours, nights and weekends.

chance of surviving 10 years.

years since the operation.



Driven man: Sir Magdi outside the court yesterday

School expels boy of 9 for possessing cannabis

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

A nine-year-old boy has been expelled from his primary school for alleged possession of

The head of Whitings Hill primary school in Barnet, Maureen McGoldrick, suspended the boy, thought to be the youngest child to be expelled for alleged drug possession, after the police were called in. Later, she decided to exclude him permanently.

Staff called in the police when they found the boy carrying what they suspected to be a drug. The boys' pareots are reported to be angry that they

were not present when police interviewed the boy who told his father he had found the substance in class. They are also reported to

have said that the boy told police he found the substance at home because he was frightened. A spokeswoman for New

Scotland Yard confirmed that police had been called to the school on 21 March. "Because the child was under

the age of criminal responsibility no further action was taken in the matter of alleged possession of a controlled substance." She said the case had been

reported to their Youth and Community section because a

child was involved, but there had been no inquiry and the substance had not been analysed.

Anne Jarvis, chairman of Barnet council's education committee, said: "We are aware of the situation and we are monitoring it. "The head teacher has a

perfect right to exclude the child. It is a sensible precaution and we appreciate why she has taken it." she said. "The governing body will meet to decide whether to endorse her decision. If they do endorse it. the child's parents will have the right to appeal against their At this stage, she said the

local authority's role was simply to advise the school. If the parents appealed, it would ap-point an independent appeals panel to hear the case.

Recent surveys have shown that growing numbers of primary school children are taking drugs, hut it is still

comparatively rare.

A survey of 4000 11-13-yearolds in London, published in
December, found that 96 per cent had never tried drugs. Thirty per cent of 14-16-yearolds had tried drugs.
A national study of 7700

from Edinhurgh University published last year showed that 42 per cent of 15-16-year-olds had taken drugs, mainly

St Hilda's blocks places for men

Education Editor

St Hilda's, Oxford University's only remaining all-women's college, yesterday refused to back proposals to admit male

The college, Alma Mater of Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, was forced to consider the change because its single-sex status means it does not have enough science fellows. While it is allowed to fill its own fellowships with women, it does not have the money to do so.

The change in statutes would allow it in share the cost of fellowships with the university and accept university appointments, four-fifths of which go to

At present the college has only four fellows in science compared with the ten it needs. The college's governing hody voted in favour of admitting male follows by 17 to 10, but a

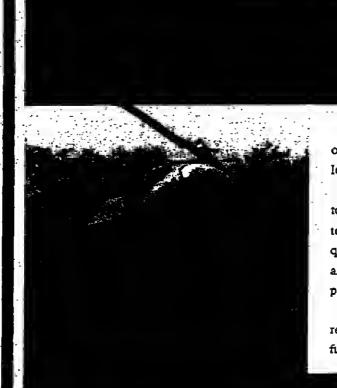
two-thirds majority is required to change the statutes and end a 100-year-old tradition.

Undergraduates and postraduates at the coilege who had campaigned against the change were delighted with the result. In a recent poll, seven out of ten opposed the idea of

Katherine Terrell, 23, a postgraduate who is president of the Middle Common Room, said: We are extremely pleased. One of the main reasons we oppose the change is that the status of women within the university is not what we would like. Only 17 per cent of fellowships are held by women and in

science it is only 5 per cent." But she added: "We are a lut worried about the college's future. We urgently need to raise money for fellowships."

There is no plan to admit male undergraduates. Ms Terrell said students feared the presence of male dons would lead to coeducation in the future.



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Judge blamed over Bridgewater trial

OC tells appeal of non-disclosure of key fingerprint evidence

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The judge, prosecution and defence lawyers all failed to secure a fair trial for James Rohinson, one of the four accused of the 1978 Carl Bridgewater murder, the Court of Appeal was told vesterday.

The failings included the non-disclosure by the Crown of key fingerprint evidence from the newspaper boy's hicycle, Lord Justice Roch and two

other judges heard. Patrick O'Connor QC was opening the case for Mr Robin-son on the third day of the appcal by the Bridgewater Three and the late Patrick Molloy, whose "confession" led largely to the convictions the following year. "If Mr Molloy's appeal is properly recognised as a tale of

police deception and oppression, Mr Robinson's appeal is a tale of the failure of the legal system to secure him a fair trial and to satisfy ... safeguards against injustice," the QC said.

The Crown has already conceded that material backing claims that police forced the confession, the so-called exhibit 54. from Mr Molloy, is enough to make Mr Robinson's murder conviction unsafe. But Mr O'Connor said that the structure of the case against Mr Robinson

was riddled with faults anyway. It would be appropriate for the court to recognise that his conviction would have been quashed quite independently of the "earthquake" of prejudice against him from exhibit 54, the QC said. "We submit that almost every aspect of the system

Mr Robinson, 63, and cousins Michael Hickey, 35, and Vincent Hickey, 42, have been on unconditional bail since February, when it emerged that police had fabricated a statement to induce Mr Molloy to confess to being at Yew Tree Farm, Stourbridge, West Midlands, where the 13-year-old was killed

with a shotgun as he stumbled upon a burglary. Mr O'Connor told the judges that one of the most significant complaints against the trial

judge was that he "wove exhibit 54, Molloy's confession, into his summing up in such as fashion as not only to fail to protect Mr Robinson from prejudice, but to

The judge [Sir Maurice Drake, now retired] had also "neutralised" one of Mr Robinson's most important defence points - the gross inconsistencies between the descriptions by eye-witnesses and Mr Robin-son's shaven-headed appearance at the time of the crime.

Prosecution counsel had cross-examined him for nearly a day without regard to the prop-er rules, and failed to ensure the disclosure of fingerprint lifts from exhibit 23, the teenager's bicycle, which had undoubted ly been handled by one of the intruders, Mr O'Connor said.

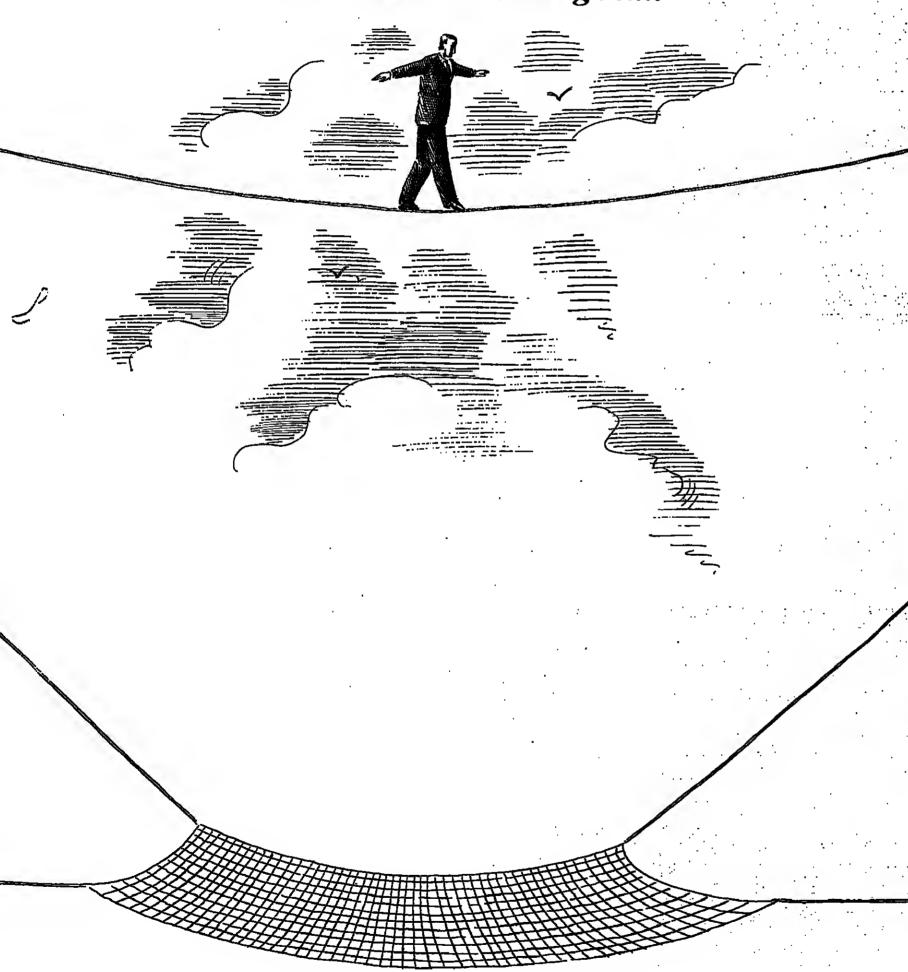
Defence counsel seemed "patently not to have read documents provided on a plate". which contained the first accounts of important witnesses against Mr Robinson, had sat without objection" though an and failed to object to other inadmissible evidence

The appeal continues.



Smoking: Emergency services tackle a brush fire on the Isle of Wight downs yesterday

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Winds fan big fires in two counties

Matthew Brace

Large tracts of two counties were ablaze yesterday as hundreds of fire-fighters fought some of the largest fires seen for many years in Cornwall and on the Isle of Wight. Fanned by high winds, walls of fire spread rapidly across bone-

dry gorse and moor land. The fires are the latest in a series which have ignited the countryside during the current dry spell.

Fire crews in Cornwall fighting a huge gorse fire which devastated up to 1,000 acres between St Ives and St Just, said they saw flames moving faster than they could run.

The fire caused a huge pall of smoke which could be seen from several miles away and which one witness said looked like a nuclear bomb mushroom cloud. The main coast road between St Ives and Land's End was closed. At the height of the blaze 120

from all over the county fought One fireman suffered super-

western Europe's most historically significant landscapes. The fire-hit heath with its ancient field systems is an area of outstanding natural beauty, with Sites of Special Scientific Interest and is part of the Ministry. of Agriculture's environmentally sensitive area scheme.

It also has one of the largest concentrations of scheduled ancient monuments in western Europe, according to the local

The blaze in Cornwall is the third hage fire to hit the West it was brought under control fire investigators moved in to investigate how it started. Meanwhile, more than 100

firefighters battled to control a huge fire which engulfed 200 acres of Brighstone Forest on the Isle of Wight. All the Isle's full-time and

part-time firefighters converged on the scene as the blaze spread through tinder dry scrub and

As the fire spread, the island's brigade, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, sent over four

Beetles warm to heat of the forest



Science Editor

Most animals flee forest fires but buprestid beetles seek them out, swarming to them from distances of up to 30 miles away,

because they need to lay their eggs in freshly burnt wood. Scientists had always wondered exactly how the beetles. of the genus Melanophila, were able to detect conflagrations at such a distance. Now, a team at the Friedrich Wilhelms University in Bonn, Germany, has learnt how the beetles are able to function - as heat-seeking missiles. Two organs found in pits beneath their thorax are sensitive to precisely the infra-red wavelengths produced by burning woodland

Few animals are able to sense heat directly. Humans detect it

through its effect on the skin rather than as an innate sensation; thus chemicals or friction can generate the same "feeling" as warmth. Many snakes have pits near their nose which can detect the heat given off by warm-blooded prey. But the beetles' sensors operate differently. As the scientists found, the beetles "feel" heat as if it were pressure - though a welcome one. Snakes, on the other hand, have nerve fibres that act as true thermoreceptors, and literally "smell" heat.

In the experiments the German team detected activity in the nerves running from the pits in response to an infra-red lamp. Writing today, in the science journal Nature, the scientists said: "This provides the first physiological evidence of an insect infra-red receptor."

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Fishermen 1 m keeping F and sole all

John U *** Che

French told to lift their blockade, but drivers stay gloomy

Marie

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Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Joe Russell has been driving for 27 years. Fifteen hours a day, six days a week. Yesterday, taking an enforced break with some 1.500 other lorry drivers stuck in a manmoth log jam in Folke-stone, he was wondering why he

Travelling down from Glasgow in his own "tractor", he was trying to take, 16 tons of fish to Frace. The hold-up is wasting valuable hours: "I have got fresh fish and maybe 36 hours of fridge fuel. I've done nearly 20 bours and haven't even made it across the Channel yet."

The Freoch fishermen's hlockade of Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk caused chaos for thousands of travellers, Mr Russell and his colleagues included. The fishermeo said the

6 It's all free market now ... the rules are easily broken 9

strike would cootinue until at least 10am today.

Various attempts were made throughout the day to try to put pressure oo the striking fishermen to call off their blockade.

One such effort took place at three o'clock, yesterday, when rival cross-Channel ferry companies cast aside their differences to begin legal proceedings against the fishermen, who have dropped their nets outside the major harbours in protest at a oew European Union ruling

over mesh size of fishing oets. As far as Mr Russell is conlatest in a series of vexations lorry drivers have suffered since the bonfire of regulations in the 1980s which spawned myriad trucking firms. "It's all freemarket now. There are rules but they are easily broken. Not by me, mind," says Mr Russell. the British authorities' ability to

You get cashers, work that is completely off the company books. You get trip money, a flat ered an over-sized invoice yes fee to deliver goods with oo terday for 800m francs, (£100m) questions asked - all that means is that you get people working from last Novembers's French all the time without concern for truckers blockade to the French their health. You're supposed to Embassy in London.

The fishing dispute hlocking

channel ports yesterday con-cerns 220 small French boats

which make a living from catching sole and other fish in the

chanoel and western ap-

The fishermen have, somewhat belatedly, taken fright at a European Union directive,

agreed by France and other European governments, which would increase the minimum mesh size of their nets.

This is part of an EU pro-

gramme of conservation, ap-

plying to all EU flects, intended to reduce the catching of young

fish and lessen the pressure oo

complaints about the oew nets.

They protest that they will cost a lot to buy - about £ 20,000 per

boat. They fear they will reduce

the weight of their catches.
Most of all, they complain that
the nets will spare precisely the

young tender, medium-sized

sole which are prized by French cooks and command the high-

Attempts were being made

last night to arrange a meeting

between the fishermen's lead-

ers and the French agriculture

est prices at market.

The fishermen have three

disappearing stocks.



صكدًا من الأصل

plan: Stranded truckers playing football on the M20 yesterday. Most are resigned (right) to delays have a tachograph that tells in-

have a tachograph that tells in-spectors what you have been up ficials by the FTA director gen-to. But things are easily lost or eral David Greeo who also currence of these hlockades". Stranded on the cold, hard shoulder at Folkestone, surdelivered a letter to French mislaid. People out there are getting away with murder."

Mr Russell, who is not a President Jaques Chirac calling on him to "use all the powers member of any union, thinks Britain is unlikely to see any available to you to prevent a re-

French-style revolts against the political establishment. "We do

not stick together. In France the

police turn a hlind eye because

they are all in the same union." Mooey, as always, provides a convenient answer. "On a good week, aye, I might get £3,000 of work in. But that's oon-stop

work and probably only works

out at £1 for every mile driven. Then you've got your over-heads - I spend £4,000 oo fuel

Mr Russell, who left school at

15 and grew up in Chryston, a suburn of Glasgow, said: "I

wouldn't advise anyone to go

into trucking now. I left Glasgow

at 8am yesterday, I am sup-

posed to be in Boulogue, then

I go to Belgium. I am doing 3,500 miles a week. That's six days a week." he says. "I work a 15-hour day. That's nine

hours' driving, two hours' load-

ing, two hours' eating and two

delays and disruption next

month if Freoch transport

unions carry out their threats to

strike over pension pay-outs. The move comes after nebetween Berna

Pons, the French transport min-

ister and the drivers' unions broke down earlier this month.

The unions are planning a series of strikes in France begin-

ning on 5 May. Mr Russell has little faith in

resolve the mess. The Frieght

Transport Association deliv-

for compensation resulting

John Lichfield on

the question of

net size and catches that has

ignited the dispute

Vasseur. The minister said this was a "highly technical" matter but he was ready to meet the

fishermen at any time to try to find a solution.
While this was taking place,

a spokeswoman for P&O Fer-

ries in England said the ferry

companies had been granted permission by the French courts

to serve injunctions on 15

fishermen blockading Calais. The injunctions should be

served within the next few hours by French civil servants on

those named individuals. If they

have oot moved within one

have our moves within one hour of receiving the injunctions, they will be liable for fines of 10,000 francs (£1,100) perperson per hour that they remain blocking the port.

"We are very hopeful this will have a end to the blockede. If

bring an end to the blockade. If

the fishermen do not move af-

ter the injunctions have been

served, they can remain in place

but the fines will mount up."

Fishermen firm

on keeping body and sole alive

To add to his burdeo he and other lorry drivers face further

hours' emptying the trailer."

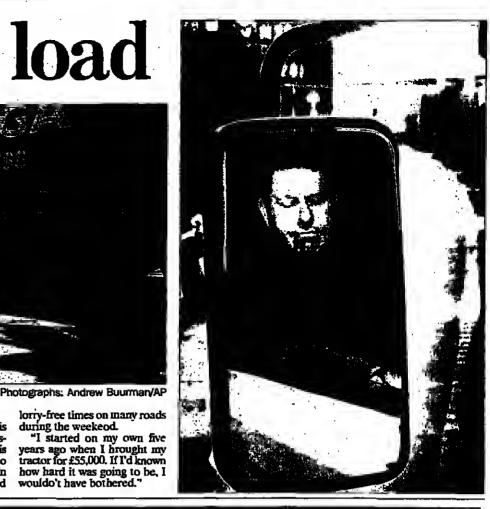
every mooth."

rounded by fellow drivers running low on fuel, food, money and patience, symbolic demons trations in London are of little

consequence to Mr Russell. He has to deal with being his own boss and the attendant hassle. Oo the Cootinent, there is a plethora of restrictions to keep up with: road tax to pay in

lorry-free times on many roads

during the weekeod.
"I started on my own five years ago when I hrought my tractor for £55,000. If I'd known how hard it was going to be, I Belgium; tolls in France; and



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Environment watchdog loses its teeth

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

Scotland's new environmental watchdog is so strapped for cash that it will not be able to monitor for disasters like the Braer oil spillage or a nuclear leak from a submarine in Holy

The agency is facing a 10 per cent cut in funding and a cash crisis because it suddenly finds itself unable to recover VAT unlike its larger counterpart covering England and Wales.

At a meeting last week, the main board of the Govern-ment's Scottish Environment Protection Agency, which came into being last year, ordered its three area offices to make cuts to fill the £3m hole which has opened in its £28m budget.

The eastern area is worst affected, with its emergency outof-hours service dropped. If a severe pollution incident happens on a loch or river at night will not be informed until the next working day begins.

The move has angered the tions. While the management has promised not to cut any of oversees a salmon fishing industry worth £13m a year to the Borders' economy. Judith Nicol of the Commission said: "To have the agency responsible for river pollution available only during office hours surely cannot be right."

Staff training and monitoring of pollution of land, water and air is being out back in all those

air is being cut back in all three areas and the agency is concerned that it may be unable to meet some of its legal obligahas promised not to cut any of the 650 jobs for the time being, there is a freeze on filling any

toring of radioactivity in the wa-ters of Holy Loch, where there was a US nuclear submarine

6 With no money, the agency is being forced to break the law?

vacancies. It also regulates waste-dumping and radioactive emissions from Scotland's nuclear plants.

base, would cease. All plans to issue air pollution monitoring contracts were being scrapped.

Tricia Bradley, a member of

the Protection of Birds' director in south-west Scotland, said: "In effect, they are being forced to break the law because they haven't got the money to meet

their commitments." SEPA's main board chairman Professor William Tirrmeau said the situation was daft. South of the border the Government's new Environment Agency cov-ering England and Wales was able to recover VAT Furthermore, the Scottish agency's pretion boards had been able to recover VAT.
However, Mike Thompson of

Customs & Excise said SEPA "simply doesn't qualify" because it is a quango receiving its funding from the Scottish Office. He said the Treasury felt that allowing it to recover VAT would open the floodgates for

But the Environment Agency in England and Wales is not considered to be a quango, cut back its activities," he said.

the agency's West Region decessor organisations like lo-Board and the Royal Society for cal councils and river partifica-the Protection of the Royal Society for cal councils and river partificafunctions and duties to its smaller Scottish sister. The larger organisation expects 10 reclaim over £50m VAT this year from

the Treasury.

Dr Richard Dixon, head of research at Friends of the Earth Scotland, called on the Goverument to address the funding crisis. "Instead of carrying forward its obligation to improve the Scottish environment, the agency is facing an unfair burden which means it is having to

Stunning development: devastating weapons that do not kill

Christopher Bellamy on science that makes death unnecessary

The dream of being able to give an order like Star Trek's Captain Kirk – immobilise your opponent without killing or maiming - has long been part of science fiction and in recent years military scientists, partic-

ularly in the US, have been working to turn it into reality. But it is all baloney, according to a report by Bradford University's Peace Studies department, published this week.

Developments in weapons technology have made it possible, in theory, to fight an entire war without anyone being killed. But in practice, say Dr Nick Lewer and Dr Steven Schofield, nonlethal weapons are just as likely to be used to overpower resistance in combination with the more conventional, lethal type, enhancing the latter's effective-

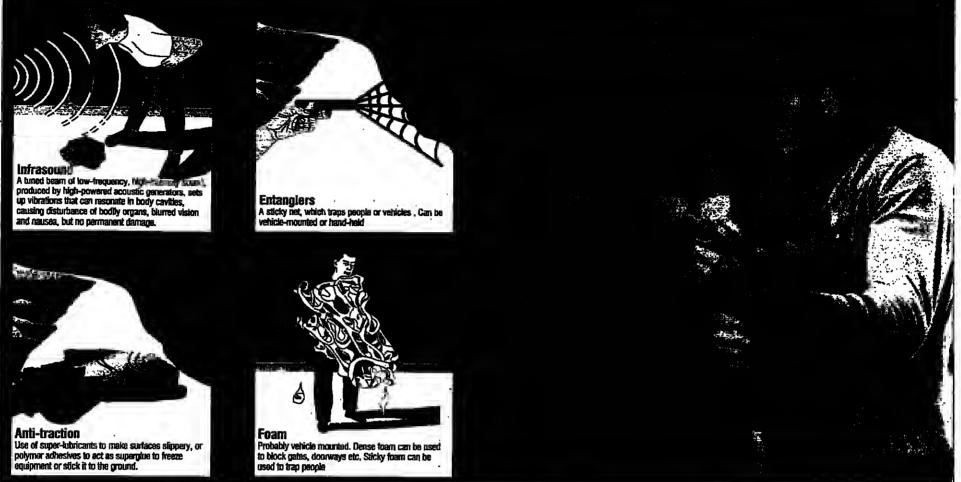
ness. The study, Non-Lethal Wea-

pons: A Fatal Attraction? argues that while non-lethal weapons could be useful in "henign intervention" - peacekeeping operations, such as in Bosnia there is an urgent need for serious debate to determine proper ground rules for their use.

Non-lethal - or "less-thanlethal" weapons have been around for hundreds of years. The Aztecs of central America. who needed live prisoners to sacrifice, had weapons designed to wound, not to kill.

More recently a number of non-lethal weapons have been in widespread use for the past 30 years. The most widely used are rubber or plastic bullets and CS gas, and also stun grenades. In the last few years US companies have developed even

more exotic non-lethal weapons including sticky foam and rubber balls to impede movement. sticky nets and chemical com-



pounds to make fuel useless or to change the composition of roads. Low-frequency sound will cause a person's insides to vibrate, causing nausea and dizziness, but no permanent

damage. Other weapons, while "nonlethal", are widely detested -notably laser weapons which can blind soldiers, especially those peering through optical instruments. Weapons designed

specifically to blind people were recently banned by internationtreaty, although those designed to smash optical instruments - which might blind people as a side-effect - were not. A further complication is that, ironically, current international law permits only weapons designed primarily to kill, but prohibits those designed primarily to wound or disable.

Britain's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency is far more sceptical about non-lethal weapons, pointing out that if peacekeeping troops use them, the local parties are likely to respond with the traditional Kalashnikov. However, in difficult situations where hostages are taken, or where the identity of attackers is unclear, they may be of some limited use. The Bradford authors said

new weapons is proceeding apace, in what amounts to an almost unseen arms race. Existing weapons conventions may be undermined as the arms industry throws up inventions that belonged in the realms of science fiction when those treaties were signed. Some allegedly non-lethal weapons rely on chemical and biological agents and are already snapping

research and development of at the heels of international

The Bradford authors said further dangers include the use of non-lethal weapons for domestic repression - the use of electric stun batons as torture weapons is well documented and contemporary conflicts often blur the line between police and military operations.
The authors called for non-lethal weapons to be assessed,

not as benign innovations but as just another type of weapon, capable of being used for good or ill. "War", as Clausewitz said, "is thus an act of force to compel our enemy to do our will." Lethal or non-lethal, it remains an act of force.

Non-Lethal Weapons: A Fatal Attraction? Dr Nick Lewer and Dr Steven Schofield; Zed Books, London, 1997; paper-

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MoD admits Gulf War pesticides error

The Ministry of Defence did not check with the Government's own pesticide experts before using large quantities of dangerous organophosphate (OP) pesticides in the Gulf War.

The admission comes in a letter this week from junior agriminister Angela

More than 1,000 British servicemen claim they are suffer-ing a variety of chronic and debilitating illnesses as a result of serving in the Gulf War more than six years ago. The widespread use of OP pesti-cides, also believed to have made many sheep farmers se-

You asked whether the Ministry of Defence had contacted this department at the time of the Gulf War to obtain advice on the use of OP pesticides. We have checked the position carefully and I can confirm that no such approach was made."

ul isone i Mrs Browning's letter says:

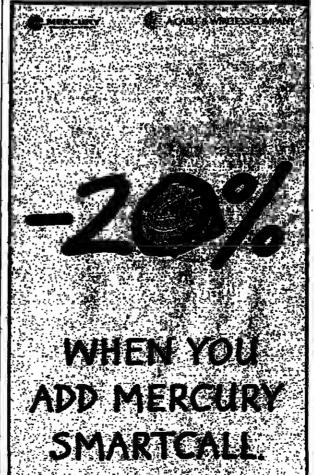
Mr Tyler, MP for North

constituency, said yesterday: "It is mind boggling that one government ministry which was going to be responsible for the use of OPs never thought to ask questions about safety measures." Gnlf veterans had "every reason to feel aggrieved".

lition victor

DOLL VILLE

Democrat's candidate in the



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Liverpool aim to keep pride intact

Although the Graeme Soumess era is less than fondly remembered at Anfield, a European night during his term as manager provides an inspiring precedent for Liverpool as they strive against overwhelming odds to reach the Cup-Winners' Cup fi-

nal tonight. With Roy Evans' side trailing 3-0 to Paris St-Germain after the first leg of the semi-final, history shows that even the Liverpool of Shankly, Paisley and Fagan never overturned such arrears in Continental competition. When David "Supersuh" Fairclough completed an epic fightback against St Etienne en roule to the Champions' Cup 20 years ago, the French lead had been only 1-0.

Yet in 1991, Auxerre, leading 2-0, came to Merseyside to complete formalities in the Uefa Cup and returned to France shellshocked. Liverpool scored in four minutes and quickly levelled the aggregate score. Seven min-utes from the end Mark Walters ensured that they made up a twogoal deficit for the first time ever.

That, as Evans will recall from his role as coach, was with a transitional team who were struggling against all manner of lower-division visitors. It was also in a halfempty stadium. Tonight. PSG face a vastly superior Liverpool line-up - one with something to prove now that the Premiership appears to have slipped away and Anfield will be packed.

The strategy is sure to be similar; try to score early and see whether PSG can take the heat. The Liverpool manager has intimated that he will play Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and Patrik Berger together for the first time this season. Evans may also switch from a defensive trio plus wing-backs to a flat back four in the belief that the French might not relish a more "British"

approach.
"It's a tall order but we must believe we can do it." Evans said orghe Popescu is suspended.

Phil Shaw on the Herculean task facing Roy Evans team tonight

yesterday. "If we can get an early goal, we can get them on the run. If you don't believe you

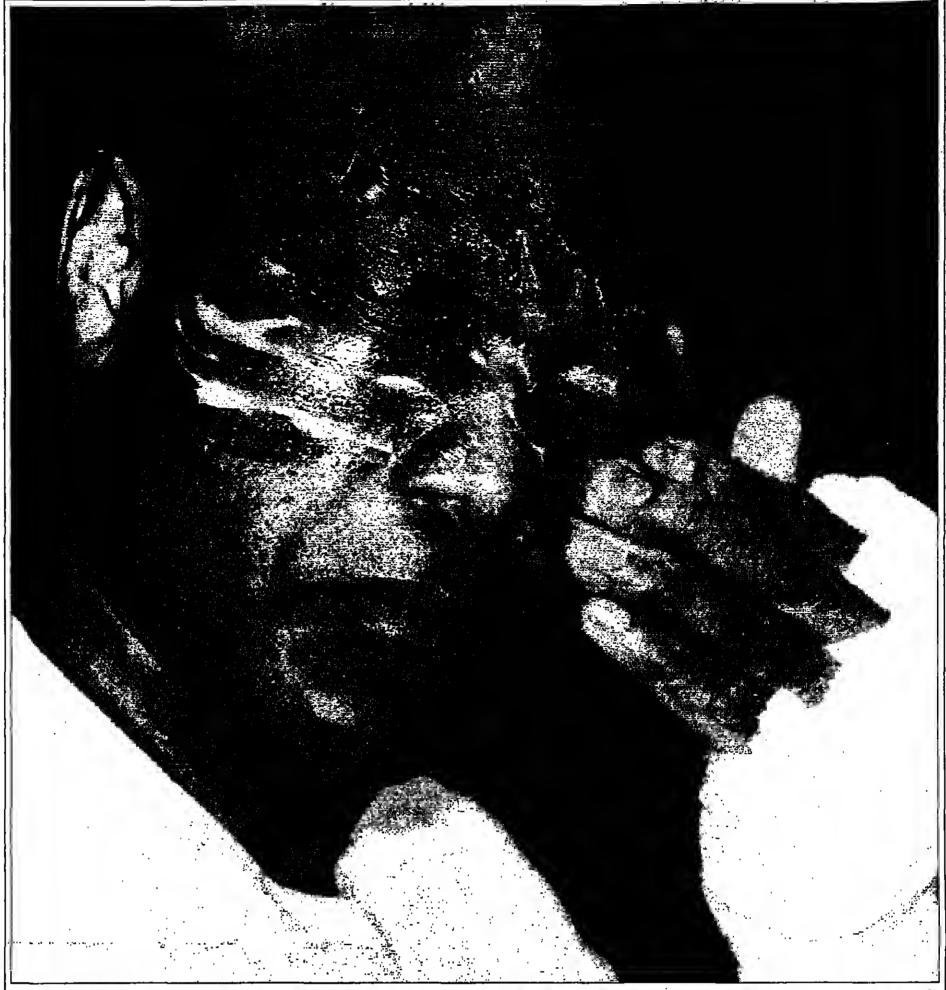
"Normally you try to play a patient game in Europe, but we must set the tempo. The bottom line is that we've got to play fantastically and they'll have to be poor if we're to win."

Steve Harkness and Bjorn Tore Kvarme are respectively in-jured and ineligible, leaving Evans to choose replacements from Phil Babb, Neil Ruddock, Rob Jones and Dominic Matteo. Michael Thomas (knee) and Matteo (hip) face late fitness

The error-ridden David James is set to retain his place - Liverpool have no plausible alternative keeper - knowing that whatever miracles are mustered could give PSG an away goal and almost certainly the tie.

For the Parisians, who have perhaps even greater expecta-tions of the 21-year-old striker Jerome LeRoy than Antield has of Fowler, left-back Didier Domi is the only casualty. Their Brazilian manager, Ricardo, anticites a "much more aggressive" Liverpool than at Parc des Princes. If that proved the case, he added, it would merely create more space for his team to counter-attack.

In the other Cup-Winners'
Cup semi-final tonight Fiorentina and Barcelona start at 1-1 in Italy. Fiorentina will be without the suspended Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta, who scored their equaliser in the first Tottenham midfield player Ghe-



Former world heavyweight champion George Foreman greases up for a work-out in training for Saturday's fight against Lou Savarese in Atlantic City

Photograph: AP

Le Saux's resolve

Graeme Le Saux has refused to commit himself to Blackburn Rovers despite pressure from the club's owner. Jack Walker. to keep the England left-hack at Ewood Park next season.

Le Saux made a surprisc return to the Rovers side after being dropped and went on to score in Tuesday night's win over Sheffield Wednesday.

He was not prepared to rule out a move in the summer, however. saying: "All I want to do is make the most of my career in the time I've got available. I've not made my decision public yet, hut everybody is aware of the problems. I don't want

other things to affect my game."
He added: "It would be unprofessional to say anything until this matter is resolved with the club. You had better ask the people in charge about that."

Le Saux said that his "troubles" had affected his performances for the past few months

when his club form has dipped. "This has been going on for a long time." he said. "It's a situation that had got the better of me: it's been serious enough to put me off my game. But I don't want a reputation as a problem player. I was trying to cope with all that was troubling me as best

I could, but it wasn't working."

Walker is determined to keep e Saux and certainly will not let him go cheaply. However, his decision to recall the Channel Islander has caused more friction with team-mate Jason Wilcox. The left-winger would not sit on the bench in midweek after being dropped and is poised to ask for a transfer.

Blackburn's troubles have heen exacerbated by an injury to the striker Chris Sutton, who suffered a hamstring strain and was substituted at half-time during Tuesday's match.

The Nottingham Forest caretaker manager, Stuart Pearce, is to remain at the City Ground next season as a player even if the club are relegated. However, he is not prepared to say whether he will remain as manager, although he admits he has made a dccision about his future.

"I will certainly he here as a player next season as I have a three-year contract to honour," Pearce said. "I have also made my mind up as regards whether I want to remain as a manager hut I am not ready to reveal

what my thoughts are." Brighton's plans to play their home games at a greyhound stadium in Hove next season could be put in jeopardy as the venue does not at present meet the League's criteria to stage

Old pals prepare for business in hand

Golf

ANDY FARRELL reports from Madrid

Once they had nothing more on their minds than trying to be the Tiger Woods of their day. Now if they resemble a couple of 40-plus chief executives out for a day's golf, that is exactly what they are, although it helps to be Seve Ballesteros and Greg Norman when it comes to

teeing up in the Peugeot Span-

Ballesteros is the boss of the event's promoters, Amen Corner, and asked Norman, head of the rapidly expanding Great White Shark Inc., to return to Madrid for the first time in 15 years as a special favour. The during the winter.

uring the winter.

No.1. "I've been up there a long time," Norman said. "The best

game together, it is right that we should help each other out," the Australian said. "It is like Jack hood and new talent to come should help each other out," the Australian said. "It is like Jack hood and new talent to come making his first cut of the sea-[Nicklaus] inviting Arnie [Palmer] to the Memorial, and Arnie inviting Jack to his tour-

nament at Bay Hill." Norman was more concerned about attending his first bullfight quid pro quo is that the Spaniard will play in Norman's Holden Classic in Australia Lehman had ended his record run of 96 weeks as the world

through. America was crying out for someone like Tiger. He has upped the level for everyone." Woods is only ranked at No.5, while Norman can regain the top spot by finishing in the top-

ten here. Like Norman, Ballesteros was long gone before Woods was crowned at Augusta and he has turned to the Australian's

son. "If one doctor cannot help, you try another," Seve said. He has had more second opinions than he has played rounds

recently. As the European captain, Ryder Cup matters are also on Seve's mind. He knows who he wants as a No 2 but he cannot yet name him, saying only that the candidate can speak both

to help set up the course. "There will be fairway for 260 yards and then only rough," is his plan to combat Woods. He will not decide on whether to be a playing captain until he picks his two wild cards on 31 August, on which subject he repeated "there are no guarantees for anyone". For the record, Norman thinks America will

Davies and Thomas out of final line-ups

Rugby Union

Jonathao Davies and Arwel Thomas, who contested the Wales No 10 shirt this season, will both be missing from their clubs' starting line-ups in Saturday's Swalec Cup final - the last match to be held at Cardiff Arms Park before it is demolished.

Davies, who is still recover- feeling some reaction to a knee ing from a dead leg and has played little rugby during the last month, will be confined to the replacements' bench as Cardiff opt for the 20-year-old Lee Jarvis at outside-half.

Thomas, who played his first game in two months for Swansea on Saturday, will make way for Aled Williams, after

ligament injury.

Twickenham yesterday confirmed that clubs outside England's top two divisions will not lose money following the with-drawal of Courage's sponsorship of the entire league system. The Rugby Fontball Union has pledged to "at the minimum,

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Equestrianism

Hugh Thomas, director of the Missubishi Badminton Horse Trials which run from 7 to 11 May, anticipates tougher qualifications for next year's event after receiving an unprecedented number of entries.

overseas countries to five horses, but, even so, still has 45 on the waiting list. There has since been resentment against Blyth Tait, New Zealand's Olympic champion, for his fairly mild assertion that spectators would

Thomas this year made the controversial decision to limit rather see the top riders with two horses than "Samantha drop out.

Tougher qualifications in line for trials Clipotty-Clop" with one. Three British riders - Karen Dixon, Leslie Law and lan Stark - are due to ride two horses apiece. Both Andrew Nicholson of New Zealand and Bruce Davidson of the United States have two horses listed, but they will only ride their second horses if one of their countrymen

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Yesterday

Tuesday UEFA CUP Semi-final excend legt Monaco 1 illiqueta 70: Internaporate 0 raggeçate: 2-3; Schalke 04 2 (Linke 68, Valmots 106) Tenente 0 (agg. 2-1, lafter gara timo).

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Turin):

O (a)2: 3-1. After ours time).

FA CUP Semi-final replay: Chestorfield O Mid
destrouph 3 (Bock 12, Reverent 57, Emerson
69) (a) Hirsborough.
FA CARLING PREMISISHER: Blockburn 4 (Berg
5, Sherwood 23, Le Saur 39, Récroft 58) Sherifed
Wednestor J. (Carbone pen 8): Levels O Aston
With O. Sunderland O Southernprint I (Distincted
22): Wirobloom O Chelses 1, Petrolou 13. 22r. Werderdon o Creage 1 veriesco 12: NATIONIMOE PROTIBALL CEARLE First Division: Igsach 1 (Section per 31) Manterer Cry D. Portsmouth & Michaelin pen 29. Bredbur, 37. 49, 89 Bansier 2 (Redeson 62, 79. Second Division: Blockodo 1 (Prece 57) Bernton C. Lutor U Bury D. Sockopor 2 (Bernett 27, April 1986) 68 73 vol. 1 (Botson 20: Wesham 1 (McGerys 77) Crews 1 (Obrost 57).

TTI Creve 1 (Johnson 67).
TENUENTS SCOTTISH CLIP Semi-final replay:
Namomosk 1 fileintyre 86: Dundee Utd 0 (a)
Easter Road, Edinburghi.
GN VALONIALL CONFERENCE: Manchesfeld 5
Howarth 65, Sorve 73, Askey 75, Datesmont 76,
Power 77 i Wolche 0; Morecambe 0 Starfondge
Corte 0.
ICES LEAGUE Provider Philadore Behavir Store.

Carte. O.

ICAS LEAGUE Premier Division: Beines's Stortford 4 Bornic, 3: Duhnch Hamlet O Dapenham
& Redbridge 2: Grys 2 Boreham Wood 4; St 4bars O Ayeshup C Sattorn Und O Ferbridge Serbs
2: Yearing 1 Startes 0: Years' Bourt 4 Oxford Cay
I, First Division: Balency 3 Wilderspring 1: Canrey Island O Ustradyo O, Layron Permant 2 Molesery 3 Second Orielates Serbing; Userbich 1: Catford Cay
I Startes 1: Doing O Borstond 3: Ware
Declared Orielates Serbing; Coher Row & Romford 2
Meteopolian Palco 1: Doing O Borstond 3: Ware
Declared Committee of Serbing 1: Taird
Christees: Epsorn & Eyel O Uninchantal 3.

INTRODUCT LEAGUE Promise Divisions African Symmetric Estatin & give of invalidation of the state of

OR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Americane 4 Salesbury 0; Cambridge City 4 Ashlord 0; Dorchester 2 Gloucester 2; Halesowen Town 2 Strangbourne 0; Sudbury Town 1 Chelerham 4, Middland Division; tikoston 3 Grantom 1; Moor Green 4 Sunton Coldreid 1; Shrpshed Dynamo 2 Biston 0, Southern 0; Heiston Charley of Williams Charles 1; Newsidon Charley of Wilesbury Sund 2; Newsidon Charley of Wilesbury Charles 1; Newsidon Charley of Wilesbury Sund 2; Newsidon Charles 1; JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Feinstowe O Great Yarmouth 1; Gorteston O Des 1: Haistead O Woodbridge O: Horwich & Parke-ston 2 Newmorket D: Lowestoft 1 Stowmarket 0; Wrotham 8 Fakentam O.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE PH Bridgwater O Tiverton 3; Chard O Chappenham 2; Mangotsfield 1 Caine 3; Paulton Rovers 12 Britatoru O.

WINSTONGEAD KENT LEAGUE: Comitican Sheppey 2: Deal 4 Whitespile 1: Furness 0 Beck onnorn 1: Greenwich Borough 2 Cray Wander ers 0: Herne Bay 2 Faversham 2. INTERLINK EXPRESS MEDIAND ALLIANCE: Storwch O Potsall Villa 2; Chasotown O West Andlands Poles 2; Impersite Victoria O Rocester O; Peranore 3 Bridgnotth 2; Stapenhill 2 Bold-mere St Michaels 1. UHLSPORT LINITED COUNTRES LEAGUE CUP

Final second lag: Northampton Spencer 1 Des-borough 2 (agg: 2-3). AYON INSURANCE COMBINATION Page Di-vision: Waterd O Queen's Pork Rangers O. LEADUE OF WALES: Bangor City 2 Caorses 1;

HARP MATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Pre-mier Division: Deny City O Cork City 2: Bray Wanderers 1 Shelbourné 1. PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE-Forms Mischangs 2 Eigh City 1; Wick Acade-my 1 Clochnaouddin 1.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 7 Cincinnati 2: Montreal 5 Chicago Cutts 1: Coloradi 37 Florida 4: St Lous 6 Los Angales 4; Houston 12 San Diego 3; Atlanta 4 San Francesco 0

Basketball The United States will continue to field a "Tream Team" of NBA players for the 1998 World Championships and the

2000 Sydney Olympics, the NBA deputy comissioner, Russ Granik, said

Drugs in sport Leading anti-doping researchers in Lau-sanne, Switzerland, said yesterday they are close to developing reliable tests for previously undetectable drugs in time for the 2000 Chambion time for the 2000 Olympics.

Football Sheffield United's First Division match at home to Stoke City tomorrow night has now been designated all-ticket af-ter increased demand for discounted seats. No tickets will be on sale after midday on match day.

advance to the American finals of the

Andersen Consulting World Champion-ship of Golf yesterday and then was beat-en by one that was almost as good. With

winds gusting from an approaching storm, Davis Love III out his tee shot within two feet of the hole on the sec-ond play-off hole and knocked in the birdle put to beat Mickelson for the US title in the match-play event. Love's vic-tory on the Great Waters course in east Georga sends him to play the European Japanese and International champions in the world finals next January at Scots-

dale, Arzona,
Ampersen constitutina word.

Ampersen constitutina word.

Onserve technique, Georgia i Semi-finale.

Il Love III bit 1 Lehrun 3 md 2; P Michologo
bit F Couples one up. Planat: Love bit Michologo
on 1-up. Gavin Featherstone, the former England and Hounstow defender, who, during his

Garin Featherstone, ure comme his controversal coaching career took South Africa to the Atlanta Opmpics and the USA to Los Angeles games but has been consistently ignored by England's men, has been appointed to coach the England women's Under-21 squad to go to the World Cup in Korea in September.

UNDER-21 TRAINING SQUAD (for World Cup in Korea in September). Liberton, K Bowdon, P Willier, L Turney, K Sharisad and C Voss (Balsam Lakester). J Blimson, K Moort, R Walker, L Wright & S Wright (Otton), A Bishop, C Gamer, J Kelso and K Welste (Hightown), L Ctark (Sunderland Bedans, M Clewlow (Canterbury, J Flettober and F Greenbarn (Loughtonough Studens), A Goldsmith (Petroorugh) in Hannah and L Hayman ISutton Coldeld), L Hoster, N Westoer & L Wooding (Chelmstod), D Marston-Smith (Gholm), L Palmer (Cohrigh), H Richardson (Shenood), L Innae (Bradford Swithonbarid and K Raberts (Slucharts).

Phil Mickelson made a superb shot to Ice Isockey oresident and general manager of the Los Angeles Kings, the National Hock-ey League team, in an executive shake-

up, Taylor, 41, replaces both general manager Sam McMaster and chief hock-ey operations officer, Rogle Vachon.

match the levels of this season".

PUDGES

ZETTERS (Dividends for matches played 19
Agril). Treble chance: 24pts: £33.40, 23;
£3.50 (two chidends only). Four draws:
£4.00. Eight homes: £34.60. Four manyer
(paid on three £10.00. Lucky manubers: 16
35 12 29 13 25. LTTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £251.50, 23 £13.20 (two dividends only). Four chance: £3.15. 10 borners £1,895. Five awayer (part on four) £06.35.

Rugby League

crug by League Crus Morley, the St Helens forward, will be free to play at Wernbley after being deared of a suspected high tackle in Sunday's win over Warrington. Saints' Silk Cut Challenge Cup final opporents, Bredford, will heve to play in unfamiliar amber shins after losing the toss to resolve a colour clash. The new Castleford coach, Stuart Raper, who armes at the club today, has appointed fellow-Australian Shane Flanagan as his assistant. Shane Flanagan as his assistant.

Rugby Union The Rugby Union

The Rugby Football Union has appointed Nick Burning as its new national referee development officer. Burning, a
35-year-old sales manager, has worked
as a training officer win referees in the
East Midlands. He replaces Stave Griffiths. Coin High, the former Test match
referee, has taken on a new post as international development officer, managing ternational development officer, managing the development of England's top offi-

Darragh O'Mahony, Moseley's tratand winger who has been attracting the st-tention of several First Division clubs, has pledged his future to the Courage League two side by signing a new two-year contract.

SPORTING DIGEST

The Scottish Rugby Union will send a 20-strong party of players to New Zealand this summer to gain experience of rugby in the world's strongest country. The Scottish players will be under the general direction of Kewin Greene, the New Zealander who has coached Glasgow and Glasgow Academicals over the last two seasons. The alm is that the players will gain experience, training with and representing the clubs to which they will be attrached.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (New Zealand toer): Altieum (Boroughmain), Reed, Michaen (both Force), Fallow (Felse), Union), Bullow (Nest of Scotland, Michaelle Stating County), Bean (Nest of Scotland, Bullest), Palamen (Boroughmain, Rest), Palamen (Boroughmain, Elliot (Hewick), Palametor, Hayger (both Dundee), Burns (Boroughmain, Flogishari (Suring County), Sinotals (Messoniers).

Snooker BATELASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Shef-field) First round: A Robidour (Can) bt B Mor-gan (Eng. 10-8; S Lee (Eng.) bt N Bond (Eng. 10-8; J Watterns (The) leads G Dott (Soo) 6-

Agres Kovacs of Hungary broke her own European 200 metres breaststroke long-course record with a time of two minutes 25.31 seconds at a gala in Bu-dapest yesterday. The Hungarian Swim-ming Federation said Kovacs had improved on the 2:26.57 she set at the Adanta Chympics on 23 July last year Adanta Olympics on 23 July last year when she claimed the bronze medal.

Temmis

MONTE CARLO OPEN Second round: R Kglook (Neth) by M Sach (Ger) 6-3 6-0; M Philippouses (Nes) by J Courier (US) 7-6 7-5; A Coste
(Sp) by S Desseld (C2 Reps) 8-3 6-3; B Librarch
(C2 Reps) by T Engelst (Swi) 7-5 4-6 6-3; C Rupd
(Mor) by Y Kathariov (Russ) 8-4 2-6 6-4; A Corretts (Spi) by C Prointe Fit 6-4 6-3; A Michaelas
(Ulv) by F Mentilla (Spi) 8-2 8-4 8-0; C Coste

(Sp) bt W Ferneira (SA) 5-4 7-8; E Alvarez (Sp) bt A Berasstagu (Sp) 5-3 3-6 6-4; O Varal-(Cr Rep) bt M Rosses (Swd) 7-6 1-1; M Ros-(Chile) bt A Gaudenz (ft) 6-2 6-2; S Bruguera (Sp) bt J Stemachik (Meth) 6-4 6-4; A Boeszeh (Fr) bt R Fusien (t) 3-6 8-4 6-2; C Moya (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-1 4-6,9-1. tt F Clavet (Sc) 6-1 4-6,6-1.

US MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Driende) First round: M Cheng (US) bt. J Gernbet (US) 6-3 6-3; A O'Brean (US) bt. J Gestribet (US) 6-2; C Woodfulf (US) bt. J Franc (Ag) 4-6 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt. J Van Horsk (Be) 6-3 7-8; F Medigari (Bea) bt. M Medider (US) 7-6 7-8; M Momen (Swe) bt. G Radux (Fr) 7-5-2-1 (ref); M Filippini (Ung) bt. W Black (Zim) 8-4 7-6; G Stafford (Sk) bt. T Champion (Fr) 6-2 6-1; J A Vidoca (Sp) bt. L Jensen (US) 6-2 6-2.

BUDAPEST LOTTO WOMEN'S OPEN First round: E Wagner (Ge) bt R Zubakova (Slovek) 3-6 6-4 6-3; N Decty (Fr) bt V Csurgo (fung) 7-5 6-3; J Kauger (SA) bt R Kuti Kies (Hung)

Football 7.30 unless sta

Eutopean Cup-Ivreners c SEME-FINALS SECOND LEG Florentiae v Berceloge (7.45) Liverpool v Paris St-Germelo FA CARLING PROMERTINE NATIONINIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Watford v Chestorijeld (7,45) . GM VALOUTH CUP FINAL Phys legt Leads List v Che-Faraborough v Wolding (7,45)

13 Palace. ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Enfeld v De-gentum & Reducige O. 450; Hachin v Sutton Uni. Second Division: Challons St. Peter v Bansted (7.45),
UHBORD LENGUE Primiter Division: Boston (vol.
v Spennymoor: Colwyn Bay v Merine, Frint Division: Agingh Lied v Marioci. President's Cap 6.
Ral fast larg Rurcom v Blyd Spenutis (7.45).
OR BARTENS LEAGUE Primiter Divisions Grou-CHARTEN LEAGUE Primiter Divisions Grou-State v Athersons.
Winstrom Each (ENT LEAGUE) Beckenham v Coctamin (J.C.): Cartoshay v Shoppey (7.45); Stade Groon v Herné 18ty (7.45).

6-2.6-4; C'Torrers-Valero (Sp) bit S Dopler (Aub 6-3.8-2; LTA SPRING SATELLITE TOURRAMENT Bournemouth) New 9 singles first receds in Wasi (GB) bit P Hand (GB) 6-3.8-3; A Stran-brin (Sevi) bit C Auffrey (Fr) 6-3.6-3; J Christen (Fr) bit M Lee (GB) 6-1.2-8 E-4.7 Stryman (SA) IT I Bettes (GB) 6-3.6-4; Neutroulier (Auf) bit P Langeard (Den) 7-6.6-2; R Laverpare (Fr) bit P Langeard (GB) 6-2.7-8; C Bedcher (GB) bit II Seosford (GB) 6-2.7-8; C Bedcher (GB) bit II Seosford (GB) 6-2.7-8; C Bedcher (GB) bit II Sprins (GB) 6-4.6-2; I Milligan (GB) bit II Neutran (GB) 6-4.6-2; I Milligan (GB) bit II Neutran (GB) 6-4.6-2; I Milligan (GB) bit II Neutran (GB) 6-1.6-0. Winneam's clariples ae-cad rounds 0 Vandecande (Bel) bit A Janos (GB) 6-4.6-4; I Ward (GB) bit A Schartstwert (Ge) 6-2.6-2; L Woodroffe (GB) bit P Russegger (Aut) 6-2.6-2; L Woodroffe (GB) bit P Russegger (Aut) 6-2.6-3; In Rissen (Welf) bit B Auer (Aut) 6-3 8-1; L Ahi (GB) bit C Musophino (Arg) 6-1.6-4.

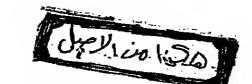
TODAY'S FIXTURES

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Produce Division: Sharurock Rovers v Boharu-ans (7.45).

ans (?..40).

PORTINE LEAGUE First Division: Leacester v thur-densfield (7.0). Second Division: Grimzby v York (?.0); Mansfield v Burnley (?.0). Rugby Union Speedway

ELITE LEAGUE: Ippach v Coventry (7.30).
PREMICE LEAGUE KNOCK-OUT CUP: Sheffield
v Hull (7.45). Other sports



THE INDEPENDENT election'97

Taxes: the big unanswered question

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

With just one week to go before polling day, the ooe big question that remains unanswered What will happen to taxes un-

der Tony Blair or John Major? The hlunt answer is that they can be expected to go up. The Treasury Red Book, giving forecasts of tax hurden, shows a steady increase up to 2002 - pro-viding the official cover for noth parties to put taxes up.
At the start of the campaign.

The Independent posed a numher of critical questions that would need to be answered, and most of them have been answered, insofar as any politician ever answers straight questions. Would Labour take Britain

into a single currency? Of course it would, though only after the same "triple-lock" safety process offered by the Tories; of Cahinet, Parliament and referendum approval. Would Mr Ashdown keep Mr

Blair in power without proportional representation? There has been no precise answer to that, though it has not been pressed too hard.

But the big remaining question is on tax - and neither the Conservatives nor Labour will give a hard answer on that probably because most polidcians and City analysts expect taxes to go up, whatever bap-pens, and whoever wins.

While Labour has made no secret of its plans for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities, there are undoubtely hidden ngendas on both sides of the political divide, Yesterday, Gordoo Brown, the shadow Chancellor, again concentrated fire oo the Tories' historical weakness for increasing VAT.

"If the Conservatives win

again," he told an election press conference, "nothing will stop them increasing VAT on fuel to 17.5 per ceot and exteoding VAT further."

John Major bas shown a marked reluctance to answer questions about VAT. When The Independent repeatedly asked him whether he would give a commitment ool to increase the rate or extend the VAT base at the start of the campaign, the Conservative leader repeatedly dodged the question.

He said: "I cannot conceive. except in the most exceptional would need to increase gener- tax and subject to quite upex-

What will happen to taxes under Blair or

If things go would the Tories tale us urope?

Will Blair back voting

Labour take Britain currency?

THE INDY EIGHT L spend who loses?

Would **Ashdown** keep Blair in power without PR?

Can Labour match the Tory pledge

What do 🕾 the parties mean by



Revenge of the greys: The Labour Party drew attention to John Major's record of tax rises by parading 22 men in masks through Birmingham city centre yesterday

al tax levels in the oext Parliament, given our public expeoditure plans and the outlook for

the ecocomy. 'So I think toat is a perfectcircumstances that cannot be ly clear answer to the points you foreseen at the moment, that we have made about value-added to extend the scope of VAT"

pected events I'd expect that to remain the situation."

Asked for the same pledge in the 1992 electioo campaign, Mr Major told The Ind "We have oo plans and oo need Labour has said firmly that it cent, the lowest level oow al-

will oot exteod the base of VAT to basic essentials - food, children's clothes, books and oewspapers and public transport the rate of VAT on domestic power and fuel hills to 5 per

lowed under European law. Mr Brown and Mr Blair have also made commitments that they will oot increase basic 23 of income tax during the lifetime of the oew parliament.

But there is oo Labour com-

or the thresholds at which in- with their promise to increase come tax is paid, although Mr the basic rate of income tax by Blair bas said be would like to

erage family.

mitmeet oo the tax allowances the party of tax and spend, a penny in the pound to fund and a new higher rate band of Only the Liberal Democrats 50p for those on taxable income

Photograph: Mike Sewell Their plans would mean that half of the 25 million income taxpayers would be worse off, but even they misleadingly said pay taxpayers out of income tax would reduce tax "for 99.5 per

Hamilton strikes at Bell with help of fax machine

Jojo Moyes

The battle between Neil Hamilton and his rival for the Cheshire seat of Tatton, Marim Bell, has moved from the heath to the fax machine with Mr Bell's campaign team ac-cusing Mr Hamilton of con-lecting a "campaign by fax", and "deluging" them with legal

threats and complaints.
Since Mr Bell's first attempt in put forward his nomination papers last week, Mr Hamilton and his agent, Peter McDowell, have issued legal threats both in person and via Mr Hamilton's olicitors, Crockers, They have also made numerous complaints about his campaign - in-cluding the "over-enthusiastie" string of Mr Bell's posters.

said a spokesman for Mr Bell's office. "ft's all done as a distraction because they know that our campaign has been set up from scratch. We've had to respond to everything."

Mr Bell was last week forced to re-suhmit his election comination following a legal threat over his use of the term "anti-corruption" to describe himself. Mr Hamilton then complained about Mr Bell's use of the word "independent", but this was dismissed by Macclesfield's acting returning officer.

all [you] can to remove the stain

'They're trying to demoralise of corruption from public life'

A letter received soon after from Mr Hamiltoo's solicitors threatens further action over Mr Bell's campaign statement. "The remark that you will 'do

is a clear accusation that Mr Hamilton is corrupt, an accusadon the gravity of which is redoubled in the context of an election campaign," the letter says. It concludes: "Our client reserves his right to commence

proceedings against you claiming damages for libel following the publication of the report by Sir Gordon Downey. If, as is confidently expected, the report clears our client of the charges of corruption, the damages he will be seeking will be very substantial indeed."

Mr Hamilton himself sent one three-page letter to Mr Bell accusing him of hreaking his word not to describe himself as an "ano-corruption" candidate aod to ruo a "decent and dig-

"Will you accept that your own role in this election is but an extension of The Guardian's cam-

paign against me?"

Letters from Mr McDowell, Mr Hamilton's agent, suggest that one way or another, the Battle of Knutsford Heath is not yet over. He has complained that Mr Bell's supporters are be-ing "over-eoth usiastic" io putting up posters for their man. "I think you should know that Knutsford's large and little Heath's [sic] are private property, owned by Randall Brooks," Mr McDowell states

in one. "Randall has given me permission for 'Hamilton' posters. He will definitely not be allowing 'Bell' posters."

Labour film asks: Just why aren't you a Tory, Mr Blair?

Steve Boggan

Tonight, Tony Blair will be posed the question many old Labour supporters have wanted to ask him for some time:

"Why aren't you a Tory?" The question will be asked during Labour's latest electionbroadcast, filmed by Molly Di-neen, the celebrated documentary maker, in the party's latest attempt to market Mr Blair as a better leader than John Major.
In a deliberately raw and

frank 10-minute film, Ms Dineen tries to capture the essence of Tony Blair in a flyon-the-wall style that contrasts markedly with the famously slick Hugh Hudson packaging of Neil Kinnock in 1987.

to Mr Blair for about five weeks, filming him at home with his children, campaigning, playing tennis and football and travelling by car and train to en-

The overall impression is of a young family-man desperate to get across the message that not all politicians are the same, that Britain can change and that he is the man to make it happen.

Ms Dineen said she approached Labour to make the film, rather than the other way round, and she insisted there had been no interference from the party, although she knew it would be used as an election broadcast and would, therefore, have to conform to a "broad menu".

pressed by Blair and I came out feeling impressed," she said at a preview yesterday. "I liked him very much. I especially think he is wonderful, really wonderful with his kids. I was oble to film them a little, but, as a parent, he didn't want me to feature them too much. That would

make them fair game."
The film includes footage of Mr Blair making tea io the kitchen of his home in Islington, north Loodon, and has limited shots of him talking to his three children. At one point, he grins and warms them: "Lots of home-work for you. Wait until David

Blunkett gets hold of you!"
Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign manager, said he hoped the broadcast would cynicism felt towards politicians in general. "It is about Blair the man," he said, "It is not gimmicky or flashy and it has oo artifice, it has no varnish. It is almost raw in its treatment of Tony Blair. You could say, we have a great asset here and let's show him off."

Only those who know him very well will know whether Ms Dineen has captured the essence of Mr Blair, However, in asking why he isn't a Tory, she elicited a response that forms the essence of his philosophy: that there is nothing wrong with amhition and success, but that your achievements are hollow if you have ignored the disadvantaged in society oo

THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

THE CAMPAIGN

Labour's campaign day began in a TV studio channel money into education and health. Celebrities were on hand to endorse the party's ideas for diverting £1bn from the National Lottery Wednesday draw into health Tony Blair stayed in the news with the

release of the Party Election Broadcast anticipated as "Blair: The Movie", made by the documentary maker Molly Dineen. The film will be shown on television tonight.
The Liberal Democrats marked the

anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare by pledging £1.75bn over the next five years for school books. The party's policy would amount to an extra £15,000 a year for a typical primary school and £110,000 a year for a secondary school,

The Conservatives began the day with an attack on Labour's plans for pensioners, saying that measures such as the windfall tax and the removal of tax relief on private health insurance would hurt the old most. Later, John Major was in Scotland while Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, made waves in London by leaking a copy of Labour's "war book" - the plan for the

clection campaign,
Labour said the book was out-of-date and contained nothing damaging to their cause.

KEY ARGUMENTS

John Major warned voters in Aberdeen of the dangers of Scottish devolution under Labour. "Look in my eyes and know this: I will always deal fair and

true by this great nation," he told them. Labour's lottery plans were an admission that their sums did not add up, the Health Secretary, Stephen Domell, said. "They are fialling around looking for money to pay for commitments they have been talking about. It is an illustration of Labour's

black hole," ha said. David Steel, the Liberal Democrat elder statesman, was asked on ITN's lunchtime news about his attitude to drugs. "Politicians are not in the best position to pontificate on this subject of drugs, it is largely a generational

problem," he said. Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign manager, introduced their Party Election Broadcast about Tony Blair with the worda: "This is not Blair the movie, this is Blair the man." In the film, Mr Blair says that as a boy he had never wanted to be a politician, "I thought that politicians were

complete pains in the backside," Mr "My ambition as a lad was to play football for Newcastle United."

GOOD DAY



It was Jack Curningham who organised Labour's campaign in 1992. He was let out of his kennel for the first. time during the current campaign yesterday to help launch Labour's plans for the National Lottery. Mr Cunningham, shadow national heritage secretary, used the morning press conference to announce: "I am very pleased that Tony Blair is here to announce a major initiative to give more of the



Paddy Ashdown's topic of the day - education - was blown off the agenda when he visited Newbury Local Liberal Democrat MP David Rendel supports the building of a controversial bypess through four sites of special acientific interest and two historic battlefields, and Mr Ashdown was tailed by protesters

who said Mr Rendel's view have a firm view and we stick to it."

ONE TO REMEMBER

peopla's money back to them."

Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, launching an appeal to win the "grey vote", said a Conservative government would "guarantee the basic pension, go on giving more to trail and less well-off pensioners and continue to protect the living standards of pensioners". Other proposals included an insurance scheme to fund residential care for the elderly and the expansion of

HOGWASH

Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in a press conference with John Major: "Independence would be a disaster for scotland. Labour's dog's breakfast of a proposal and its instability republic and a light of capital."

THE OTHER PARTIES

The Ulster Unionists suffered a blow when Jim Kilpatrick announced that he was defecting to the Rev Ian Palsley's Democratic Unionist Party. Ha said he had switched because the UUP had gone soft on the union and was prepared to re-negotiate Northern Ireland's position within the UK.

Meanwhile, the Natural Law Party told the three main party leaders that they would have to subscribe to the party's policies on transcendental meditation and yogic flying if they were to heal rifts on Europe within their ranks. Dr Geoffrey Clements, the party leader, said that Britain's loaders need to listen to "nature's intelligence".

MEDIA STAR



Sean Connery is as well known these days for being the SNP's very own media star as for being an ex-007, having provided voice-overs for several SNP political broadcasts in ine past. Yesterday the party announced a plan to send out healt-throb himself. Connery has yet to make a personal heart-mon names. Connery has yet to make a personal appearance on behalf of the party in this campaign, but in the letter he urges voters to join him in voting for them, and fulfilling his "dearest wish" of an independent Scotland.

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Dimbleby the consummate performer shows his hand

صكدا من الأصل



Triumphant mood: Peter Snow, David Dimbleby and Jeremy Paxman sharing a lighthearted joke with photographers on the BBC's election night set. Photograph: Tom Pilston

Television's grand inquisitor Jeremy Paxman appeared distinctly jumpy yesterday when the tables were turned on him by media pundits invited to marvel at the BBC's Election Night

studio set. Paro had to be prodded out of his self-styled "peu" - an interviewing lair up in the gods of the studio - by the Corporation's press handlers who insisted that he should make a smiling appearance following a recent maga-zine interview in which he hinted at some dissatisfaction about being kepi in David Dimbleby's shadow.

"Listen, I was not disappointed. It was what we call in the trade a joke. J.O.K.E," he told me when I did my best Paxman impression and raised this vexed topic.

Later, loosening up slightly, he de-scribed himself as "the fool to Dim-bleby's King Lear" and said he would dread being asked to play the big serious anchorman role at a future election. "It seems to be rather complicated."

It sure does. The BBC is halling its Election Night special as the higgest hroadcasting event in its history. It will certainly be among the longest running from 9.55pm to at least mid-

day on 2 May. It took 16 lorries to deliver and three days to erect the silver-hued tubular steel "theatre-in-the-round" set in studio 1 at BBC Television Centre, which will serve as the hub of the operation, housing 120 computer terminals, 200 monitors, 100 telephones, 30 miles of vidco cable and wiring and backed up by 80 outside broadcast units dotted

throughout the British Isles.
Although the cameras will be trained on Dimbleby and his fellow presenters, plus the delighted and dejected politicians they lure into Paxman's lair, viewers will also see the

computer back-up people.
"They will all be visible so that licence-payers can see their money is being well-spent," said Peter Horrocks, editor of Newsnight and Election '97, who was keen to point out that the cost of the coverage would be about £2.5m, roughly the same as in

But there was no sign of skimping. The lavish set is a cross between the Starship Enterprise and a Roman amphitheatre. Dimhleby averred that it reminded him of the Cirque du Soleil, a famous Canadian circus troupe, at the Royal Albert Hall. "You expect acrobats in leotards to appear." jested. He may be the circus-master, but he will also be performing, as ever, a double-act with Peter Snow, who was like a child in a toy shop yes terday demonstrating his new virtual swingometer, live 3-D graphics and

zappy election night computer games One sequeoce - already tested on the Wirral South by-election result programme – will depict the parties' battle-huses either roaring ahead or disappearing into a watery ditch, depending on their performance at the poll. Another will show key target seats being smashed up on screeo if the incumbent is unseated.

"Visually the graphics are the most exciting," Snow enthused. "They'll be able to tell the story as never before."
The story the BBC wants to tell on

2 May is that it has once gain tri-umphed on the raongs from. In its 1992 Election Night coverage the Beeh drew 8 million viewers, twice as many as ITV. By 2am its audience had fallen to 4.5 million, but this was three times as large as its commercial rival.

"I'd be disappointed if our coverage this time round wasn't as popular," said Mr Horrocks, issuing a further solemn pledge to licence-pay ers: "It's long, but it's oot going to be

Parties battle over Labour's 'War Book'

Christian Wolmar and Colin-Brown

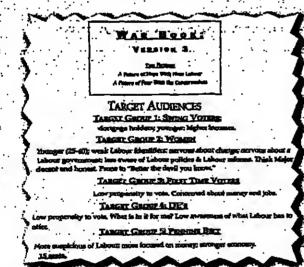
Labour's battle plan for the: election, revealing its assess-ment of both its and the Tories' weaknesses and strengths, was leaked by the Tories yesterday, provoking a row over its importance and relevance:

Brian Mawhinney, Conservative chairman, said the documeot, "War Book Version 3" "reflects very closely what has been happening over the last six months in what is quite clearly the most cynical political campaign ever seen in British pol-itics." It correctly ideotified Labour's own perceived weaknesses, suggesting the Tories' decision to concentrate on Europe was a result of Labour accepting that it was seen as likely to sell out to Brussels.

Labour spin-doctors appeared unconcerned about its publication but Dr Mawhinney grabbed the evening headlines. knocking off Lahour's ancouncement about the Lottery. Labour also hinted that it had similar documents relating to the Tories' plans but a source said: "We would not be stupid enough to publish them."

Tory candidates are being is-sued with extracts from the 30page dossier to sharpen theircampaigning on the doorstep by showing that Labour secretly feared it was weak on the "hidden left", the unions, the lack of experience of Tony Blair's

team, and being evasive. However, Dr Mawhinney failed to point out that the Labour analysis ideotified Labour's strengths as "Tony Blair - young, strong and dynamic, leadership"; and education, and the NHS were seen as "winning" issues for Labour. Labour sources last night said



Poll position: Excerpts from the leaked document

it was a year-old document, it was not their current election plan, and denied it was a summary of what Labour said about itself. Labour said it listed Tory claims about their own strengths

The War Book lists both parties' strategies and plans, and outlines in detail Labour's plan for the five months in the runup to the election. While much in the document, which is at least six mooths old, has hap-. pened as predicted, or has been announced subsequently by Labour, some lines of attack have been dropped by Labour and others have been added.

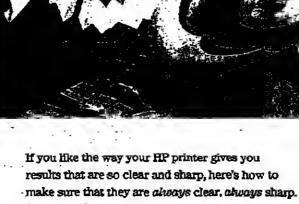
For example, a page refer-ring to Tory pledges says: "You will pay to visit your school; you will pay more for books; you will pay VAT on books; there will be more crime: guns and knives still legal; you will pay for water through a meter." This line of attack was prepared in anticipation of announcements by the cation, crime.

Greens badger Ashdown

Tories. But there is no mentioo of things like privatisation of pensions, which clearly sur-

prised Labour. There is also a fascinating reference to the 15 key seats in the Pennine belt, where internal Labour polling suggests local people are more concerned with tax and less bothered about health and education than in the rest of the country. Labour's weaknesses are seen as money, fear of Labour, "what do they stand for" "why are they evasive", hreak-up of Britain and

Labour councils. Conservative strengths are the economy (inflation, interest rates and economic competence), patriotism (Europe, the Union), Mr Major (decent, honest) and continuity. Their weaknesses are -17 years too long", for the few, not the many", Mr Major's weak leadership, division/disintegracion, betrayal/trust, tax, NHS, edu-



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HEWLETT* PACKARD

Paddy Ashdown attempted to spend quality time with a dormouse and a pantomine cow yesterday. Amid eco-heckling from Green Party activists and interjections from the ensatz bovine creature, Mr Ashdown tried to explain his party's support for the Newbury by-pass.

The froot end of the cow was protesting over the construction of the road, as indeed was the back end. The Liberal Democrat leader addressed the head of the cow, arguing that while the by-pass would have an endronmental impact, it was in-

over backing for bypass finitely preferable to the current state of affairs. The Liberal Democrats' own polling had shown 87 per cent of residents supported the decision.

The arguments were having little impact on the beast and Mr Ashdown was advised by a party activist that he was talking to the wrong end of the animal. The cow confided to The in-

dependent that it was an ecocriminal, having been arrested for trespassing oo the by-pass construction site. As a condition of bail, the cow, or Rockin' Rosie, as she called herself. regularly attended the local

place among a dozen eccentric protesters outside Greenham Court primary school, felt even more aggrieved. "Let's have a debate. Let the badger have his say." said a magnanimous Mr Ashdown to the rodent. "I'm not a badger, I'm a domnouse," came the reply.

"Most of my bat and badger

friends were killed during the

by pass construction. I am very, very lonely."

The protesters tried to stop
Mr. Ashdown cotering the school but were brushed aside by an enlikely alliance of police

and Liberal Democrais.

'Donnygate' affair spawns its own anti-sleaze hero



Christian Wolman

Labour faces its own anti-sleaze candidate in Doncaster, which has achieved national notonicty with a local government scardal of growing proportions.

Neil Swan, a former Labour Doncaster candidate, is standing on an "anti-sleaze Labour" ticket against Kevin Hughes, a junior Labour whip in the last Parliament and also a former Doncaster councillor.

The Donnygate affair, which has been dubbed recently as "the worst local government scandal since the Poulson affair", first came to light in January after the district auditor revealed he was questioning the validity of trips abroad and extravagant "working" lunches

Earlier this week, it was re- councillors, hased originally vealed that the police are around the National Union of

widening their inquiry to include land deals, contracts with a security firm and various other financial deals and the police are now setting up an office in the

Mr Swan said he wants to put pressure on the national party and to act as a focus for local concern about corruption at the council. A New Labour supporter, he wants to draw the national party's attention to what has been happening for many years in Doncaster.

foul of what he calls the ruling "Mafia" on the council. He said: "It started at the first report, they didn't like that."

bunch of councillors standing outside the local T&G office. Mr Swan was a councillor between 1987 and 1990 and fell

meeting I went to, when I asked a few questions about the annual An inner caucus of leading

Mineworkers, the miners' community group, has long made the key decisions about what happens on Doncaster council, and Mr Swan fell foul of them: "I discovered their existence by accident. I was driving, a bit early, to a meeting, and I saw this

They had obviously tried to get in for a meeting but the care-taker had locked them out. When they noticed me, they started jumping over hedges and trying to hide behind the huilding. It was hilarious." Thanks to a grant of £7,000 from the People's Trust, a fund created with a £2m donation by Mohamed Al Fayed. Mr Swan

has an office, a fax and even a hired van. He hopes that there will be some money left over to sponsor candidates in the 1998 council elections, if the cleanup of the council, which has started through the resignation of several leading council-

lors, has not been completed. Out on the stump, Mr Swan tops into a group of women who live in terraced housing opposite a development site. They have complained about not receiving any information as roadworks and shops appeared

opposite them, with no warning. Two of them, Heather Wilson and Susan Arksey, have been hadgering the council for two vears but their letters get lost or they receive patronising replies. Mrs Wilson said: "We started taking in our letters to the council to make sure they got there, but they refused to give us a receipt for them."

In the market in Thorn, one of the small towns which make up much of the Doncaster North constituency, Mr Swan is greeted by supporters. He has become a repository for all complaints about the council, hut there is, too, deep embar-

rassment about Donnygate. Two seen these councilions plotting in the local club. They're like a coven of male witches," says Frank Dallas, a pensioner, who is angry about recent figures showing some councillors getting more than

£20,000 a year in expenses. Yet, local Tories are surprisingly uninterested in exploiting the scandal. Peter Kennerley, a candidate from Central Office casting - a City lawyer and Wandsworth councillor - reckons that Doncaster people will not react well to an ontsider raising local sleaze: "This is still the people's republic of South Yorkshire: People are very dependent on the council and



by Aanonymous

€ One middle-

fallen for Bobby

had been bad - but Friend Bobby was not wobbling.
Not that much ever wobbled with Bobby. His lean
frame and bony features were not
smited to it. Anything wobbby was kept well out of sight.
"A rogue," he told any passing piranta who asked about the sur-

vey showing a sudden drop in his party's lead, "full of technical deficiencies." And in a way it was good that this poll was quite so bad. When, by the end of the week, the others came out showing a better picture, the story would be all about the Candidate's recovery and the Grey Man's gloom.

anwhile, momentum was vital. The party must show no signs of flagging, no let-up m its assault on the eyes and ears of the nation's commentators. They'd made that mis-take in 1992, and were not going to make it again - not on his watch.

So today he had had no less than three events to attend to, and it was still only four in the afternoon. The most exciting - beld in a London television studio in front of a live udience of piranhas and tame punters - had launched a populist inititiative

involving giving lottery money to things that folk liked. Po-litically it was the perfect deal, no-one lost and everybody aged woman had gained. It was a win-win deal. with guaranteed publicity. As usual the Prodigies had

done a celebrity trawl and uncovered a former Olympic - because of the athlete to endorse the proposals on education, and yet way he dialogued another hagely successful middle-aged woman - this time to with the people 9 back the plans for health clubs

for all. Bobby was getting rather fond of these confident matrons, whose capacity to sell jojoba oil and sex advice to the women of Britain had emboldened them to go on to public platforms and speak earnestly about the politics/spirituality interface. One had fallen for the Candidate because of the way in which he "dialogued" with people.

But the fairy on the Christmas tree was a special guest appearance from the world-famous Oscar-winning film director, whose last speech had been the one in which he had accepted all those awards on that vast stage in California. When the director had come to the rostrum, Bobby had half expected to be mentioned in a long list of those to be thanked for this wonderful success - "and, finally, to my friend Bohby, without whom none of this would have been

Event two was his own show, Event two was his own show, unveiling the movie about the Candidate, shot by the award-winning woman documentary director. After this campaign, he thought, he might have difficulty in mixing with people who had not actually won awards. What were you if you had no BAFTA's Occase or Olympic Golds.

had no BAFTAs, Oscars, or Olympic Golds on your sideboard?

The tankful of piranhas was surprisingly receptive to what be had described as "the Candidate, almost raw." Especially since "almost raw" had actually meant "in the kitchen". But Bobby liked the word "raw". Only the yellow-tied former Trotskyist had been hostile, determined to discover whether the documentary woman had been prevented from filming in other places ("like where?" he thought, "the loo?").

It was even calmer half an hour later when

Mr Brown and Red Dawn gave a little press conference about VAT Bobby stood at the back in characteristic pose, his left hand resting in the crook of his right arm, his right hand swivelling at the wrist to pull at his nose, be waved

dismissively at questions from the Daily Telegraph, or to shield his mouth when making pertinent observations to Big Al, who was looming just behind him.

The most exhausting thing was never quite knowing what the media flock would do next. He knew that a considerable part of his reputation rested on an almost superstidoughallet on the part of the Candidate's office in his capacity to affect the sudden starling-like wheeling and changes of direction that these gregatious an-

imals exhibited from time to time. But it was never as simple as that. Sudden moods would arise, unforeseen mistakes would be made. Only last night, in middle of his moment of passion, the untexted Candidate (usually a model of precision) had got his lines mixed up, and had madvertently watered down one the few commitments the party actually had. It had taken 10 hours to sort things out.

But he was relatively happy now, and able at leisure to reflect on two things he had never before noticed. The first was that Mr Brown's arms were rather short. The second was that the campaign was rather long. Then his hicep went off.

"No political party is in favour of homefessness. No one sets out to encourage it. Unfortunately, the policies sometimes have that effect. It's true it has not featured in the election campaign so far. The truth is it is not a vote-winner. That is absolutely wrong, but unfortunately it is so." - Tony Banks

"The present political battleground in Britain regarding the European Union is an expression of the need to reconcile two critical factors - unity and sovereignty. The widely-held opinion is that it is not possible to uphold both simultaneously, they are seen as mutually exclusive."- Dr Geoffrey Clements, leader of the Natural Law Party, at the launch its manifesto for Europe

"I am very happy at the way the campaign is going and I am increasingly confident as we move forward to 1 May." - John Major campaigning in Scotland

"This is not a campaign just of bread-and-butter issues. This campaign is about con-As so often in the past,



Scotland may well decide the outcome." - John Major

"Peter doesn't have to have his reality made virtual. He's his own reality." - Peter Hor-rocks, editor of the BBC's election night programme, talking about Peter Snow and his 3D swingometer

"Politicians are not in the best position to pontificate on this subject of drugs. It is largely a generational problem."-Sir David Steel, Liberal Democrat elder statesman

"Everywhere I go in the world, people want to know about Scotland and why we tolerate our affairs being run by someone else's govemment." - Sean Connery in a letter to 500,000 voters urging them to support the Scottish National Party.

Compiled by Ben Summers and Sam Coates

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Etonian turns back on old school

Barrie Clement

Old Etonian David Rendel, Liberal Democrat candidate for Newbury, yesterday said his three sons had had a better education at the local comprehensive than he had received at the country's most prestigious public school. Mr Rendel, the party's Incal

government spokesman in the ast parliament, said he had been educated in a "very strange and unusual way" Speaking at Greenham Cnurt primary school, in Newbury, also attended by his children. Mr Rendel said: "The education they received here was rather better than the one I got.

They have seen more of the world. They grew up with nar-mal penple in a way I did not. They are more worldly wise. they know their way in the world better than I did."

Mr Rendel, who was accompanying Paddy Ashdown on a visit to the school, said the facilities at Eton, where the fees are £13,410 a year, were very good. "If we could have those advantages in the state sector, who knows what could he achieved?" Mr Rendel's sons are 18, 16 and 13. Asked by The Independent whether his education had made him a strange and unusual person, he replied: "Any child of any politician will find their father rather strange."



22,000 by-election majority, but his scat could be vulnerable to his Conservative challenger be-

cause of the boundary changes. The headmaster of Eton kept his own counsel about the

an "open circle" in Bath on ed-ucation attended by teachers, lecturers, students and parents. Of the 23 guests who attended the meeting to give their views and hear those of Mr Ashdown, not one spoke in favour

Asked what they would do if they could make one decision as Secretary of State for Education, many supported a re-

The Liberal Democrat leader told the meeting that although all three parties claimed to emphasise education, the Conservatives had only devoted one press conference to the subject.



Rendel: 'Strange' schooling

comments of the school's for-Later Mr Ashdown spoke in

of selection at schools.

duction in class sizes.

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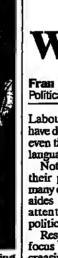
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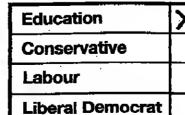
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Mr Rendel is defending a



Millbank tendency gives words whole new meaning

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Labour's Millbank tendency have done it again. Now they are even tinkering with the English

language.
Not content with rewriting their party's constitution and many of its policies, Tony Blair's aides have now turned their attentions to rewriting the political lexicon.

Responding to the findings of focus groups, Labour is increasingly controlling the language its candidates use. Using a strategy designed both to reassure and to enthuse voters, the party is developing a whole

new lexicon of its own. Even on the campaign trail, would-be MPs regularly ring their party's communications headquarters in London to check the "line" on a particu-

Sentences containing words such as "strong", "opportunity", and "challenge" often result from these conversations.

"Millennium" is a very new Labour word, too. It conveys both the excitement of a new era and the certainty of 1,000 years

The Independent's database shows 55 instances of Tony Blair's name being mentioned in the same article as the word since the election campaign

Parties' lexicon for campaign usage Regenerate lew Labour Doft Words: Conflict Surrender oundation Inexperience Dictate -Ілехрепелсе Pledge Rush headlong Opportunity Modern Reboni Weaken Young Threat Transformation Naked : Confidence brength. Tory Werds Nation state Contract Reward... One nation Maturity History

began, while John Major comes up just 34 times in the same context. Likewise "regenerate", 'vision" and "destiny.

New Labour is clearly keen to portray itself as a party full of young, vigorous politicians but not to let any hint of inexperience slip through.

Tony Blair has been connected with the word "young" 471 times since the election campaign began, while John Major has had just 379 links. Mr Blair and the word "modern" have been paired 169 times, while the Prime Minister and the same word have been paired only 124 times.

Passion, too, is the territory

Mr Blair and passion have been mentioned together 45 times, while Mr Major has clocked up just 22 mentions. "Stakeholder society," once

a key phrase for Tony Blair, seems to have taken a dive during the election campaign. It appears the focus groups may have reported vagueness on what the phrase actually meant. The Conservatives' language

of Labour in the 1997 campaign.

has a dual message, too. They aim to spread fear about what a Labour government might mean, and they want to press home the message that Britain is already a safc, comfortable Tory words on a Lahour future include "danger", "drift", "conflict" and "surrender", while "our great nation", "booming" and "you can only he sure" belp to reassure. Meanwhile, "sovereignty"

and "nation state" are making a shaky bid for prevalence in the light of the party's dehate over Europe.
John Underwood, the former

director of communications for the Labour Party and now a senior partner in Clear Communications, does not believe the development of such a political patois is surprising.
What is new is the way the

words are chosen to appeal to about 250,000 "switchers and aqueezers" in key marginal scats, he says. There's a micro-campaign heing waged in pursuit of these quarter of a million people. This

inguage is designed for them. Mr Underwood said. Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP for Great Grimsby, is not impressed with the gale of paper which hlows out of his fax machine every day with

instructions. What I want is ideas for issues to put over and unswers to the kind of questions that come from the electors. This is just endless regureitation of the leadership's speeches." Mr

They all say education is top of their agenda.

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AROUND THE REC Boom toy that rema an import battlegrou

1 may 10

Kennec

Stephen Goodwin



Food for thought: Charles Kennedy, Liberal-Democrat MP for Ross, Skye and Inverness, enjoying a tea and scone break on the campaign trail

Kennedy fights for his northern life

pick up votes in her home area

of Dingwall, and there are ma-

licious whispers that after 14

years as an engaging television star for a party unlikely to gain power he might prefer to con-

centrate on broadcasting. His dismissal of the rumour is un-

printable, nevertheless he does

you'll be okay" confidence he

Mr Muuro is not only a na-

ter of the seat's 56,000 voters

but has cult status among the

young-right across Scotland. Some 50,000 watched the hand

at an open air concert by Loch

case at cottage doors on the is-land of Raasay, off Skye, in his

hlack coat and boots, he looks

Watching him argue Labour's

hears on doorsteps.

Lomond in 1991.

t seem convinced by the "Oh

The notion of a Highlands and Islands group of Labour MPs wielding a kind of crofters' block vote at Westminster sounds at first like revolutionary talk hrought on by too many single malts downed in front of a peat fire.

The same of the sa

But perhaps not. Labour candidates in the west of Scotland believe this election offers best opportunity for decades of reviving the homegrown radical movement which grew out of the crofter uprisings of the 1880s. Now, as then, land reform would be top of its

Two of the putative group are defending scats held in the last Parliament, Calum Macdonald in the Western Isles and Brian Wilson, Labour's campaign co-

Lying south of the Clyde, Mr Wilson's Cunninghame North constituency could hardly be de-

scribed as "Highland", though it does include the Isle of Arran. He is, however, a driving force behind the group, a founder of Skye's West Highland Free Press, who could be a voice in a Labour cabinet. 1980s.

There has always been a distinctive Highland agenda - land ownership and transport are the main issues - but it is very rare push it to national prominence," Mr Wilson said. The last time the Highlands

had two Labour MPs and their. own party in office, the big spending Highland and Islands Development Board was set up. There has been no comparable initiative since.

The three other potential group members are in Liberal Democrat constituencies. James Hendry, an Inverness solicitor, probably stands least chance. He is up against the vet-

eran Bob Maclennan in Caith-ness, Sutherland, and Easter Ross, though interestingly when Mr Maclennan won the seat in 1966 it was for Labour. He switched to the SDP in the

Then there is David Stewart. a social worker and councillor in "too-close-to-call" Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber. The ston has left the seat a four-way marginal on paper hut most pundits think the SNP's Fergus Ewing, solicitor son of Winnie "Madame Ecosse" Ewing, is

iging ahead. Most Labour hopes are pinned on Donnie Munro, front man for the Gaelic rock band Runrig, who is challenging Charles Kennedy in Ross, Skye and Inverness West.

Boundary changes have cost Mr Kennedy natural voters in East Ross and added Labour like an Amish preacher come to

wards in Inverness, the SNP's call. His message certainly has Margaret Paterson is likely to a religious fervour. Just as he believes Runrig's

music has given Gaeldom a greater cultural confidence, now, aged 42, he wants to help empower the Islands and Highlands politically.

"We have been in a backwater politically for too long. The Liberals may appear inoffensive 30 years they have proved utterly ineffectual," he said.

For inspiration, Mr Mumo tive of Skye, with nearly a quar- had only to look across the

Sound of Raasay to Braes, on Skye, where a memorial commemorates the last hattle fought on British soil.

In 1882 crofters incensed by rents fought a pitched battle with a squad of sheriff's men. Several people were imprisoned and fined at loverness. But though the battle was lost, the campaign was a success. Crofters secured rights of tenure and for a time elected their own MPs - a piece of misty-eyed history which just

Labour's lottery to help the

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

A £1bn "People's Louery" fund 10 support education and health projects would be set up by a Labour government. Tony Blair

said yesterday. The Labour leader joked that while his party could not guarantee that people would win the lottery, he would guarantee that their money went to the causes

they really cared about. He told an election press conference that the fund would be created from the proceeds of the current National Lottery mid-week draw over five years, and would be used to pay for new projects that fell outside services normally financed by taxation. "It will not substitute for what the taxpayer does," he said. "It will add to what peo-

But Virginia Bottomley, Secetary of State for National Heritage, claimed that the Labour scheme would threaten the success of the National Lottery, increase bureaucracy and undermine the concept that it should only fund projects additional to those already met by central government.

"Labour pledge the same money over and over again to different projects," she said. "The only clear thing is that their figures do not add up and it would all end in tears."

Illustrating the type of proects that would benefit, Mr Blair said some of the cash would be used to make sure that teachers had the skills to deal with computers in the classroom; finance children's afterschool learning programmes; and set up healthy living centres. Labour was also planning to use the "People's Lottery" fund to finance a national talent en-

technology and the arts, fostering new talent for the future. The endowment scheme, supported at the press conference by Rachel Portman, Oscar-winning composer of the music for the film Emma, and Anthony Minghella, director of the Os-car-winning film The English Pa-tient, could be earning copyright revenues by 2001.

Miriam Stoppard, the writer and broadcaster, backed the plans for healthy-living cen-tres; a network offering fitness checks and routines, and advice on diet and health, located in high streets, shopping centres and leisure centres.

Labour's national heritage spokesman, Jack Cunningham, said: "The lottery is very effective at raising cash, but people believe more of it should go to the things they think are im-portant and which make a real difference to their lives.

"If the benefits are to be fully realised there must be a new. hetter approach to the allocation of the funds. We must ensure a more effective and equitable system for lottery awards. Awards such as £13m for the Churchill papers and fi-

nancial support for Eton College caused public outrage." Dr Cunningham also said that there were enormous regional disparities in the allocation of lottery money, and, under Labour, existing funding bodies would be expected to demonstrate commitment to a

geographically-fair distribution. Existing rules worked against less prosperous areas and communities, he said. They would be made more flexible and Lahour would also set up "Community Chests" the country, enabling more people at a local level to influence the distribution and

AROUND THE REGIONS

Boom town that remains an important battleground

Northampton is one of the towns which, the Conservatives would argue, backs their slogan Britain is Booming. but that might not be enough to woo the voters on 1 May. Economically, Northamp-

ton is reaping the benefits of its central geographical posi-tion with the growth of distribution warehouses and light industry and lower than average unemployment. But Labour controls both

the borough and, at least un-til I May, the county council; the town has high pockets of unemployment and an estimated 75,000 people are dependant on Job Seckers Allowances or Income Support in the county.

Northampton North is a

key marginal for the Labour Party with their candidate, Sally Keeble, needing a 3.6 per cent swing to take it from out-spoken Conservative candidate Tony Marlow.

The contest is tougher in Northampton South, where the Conservative's Michael Morris has a 16,000 majority. Although that majority has suffered with the boundary changes, Labour's Tony Clarke still needs an estimated 12.7 per cent swing to take

The town has had its share of presidential-style visits, one from John Prescott and one by Labour leader Tony Blair, while their Conservative equivalents have stayed silent. This is not a surprise to Mr Marlow, one of the eight Tory

t confine

MPs who had the whip re-moved and whose election litcrature comes out firmly against a single currency. But in spite of, or perhaps because of, all the politicking and the recent visits, voters in the town are bemused by the

Voter Karla Dearsley, 41, said: "There are lots of issues hut they (the politicians) are not really addressing them, are they? Things like employment, the welfare state, pensions. They seem more interested in saying what the other people would do if they got the chance than what they would do. There are no personalities that I particularly warm to either but my fear is that John Major might get people's sympathy because they think, poor chap, his party is being rotten to him."

Her views are echoed by Cameron Wood, who was 18 when the Tories were elected to power in 1979. "I'm not really sure what I'm going to do yet," he said.

The issue for me is that I bought a house in 1989 and I have seen huge mortgage and interest rises and I have nega-tive equity on my home and, for probably selfish reasons, my main fear is that it will go up if Labour got in." The impression in

Northampton, despite hard campaigning from Labour, is that "don't knows" still hold

of the Northampton Herald & Post

political shorts

Anti-gun lobby turns its fire on the Tories

The anti-gun lobby will today throw its weight firmly against the Conservatives as the banning of handguns hecomes a par-ty political issue. Ann Pearston, of the Snowdrop Campaign. along with members of the Gun Control Network and representatives of the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, will share a platform to attack Tory views on firearms.

The campaigners against handguns had initially sought to be apolitical as they attempted to bring about a ban in the wake of the Dunblane massacre. The change in stance follows a survey by the Gun Control Network of parliamentary candidates views on a total handgun ban. Gill Marshall-Andrews, who chairs the group, said: "If it's important to you that we make this country safer and ban all handguns, then don't vote Tory."

Meanwhile, Mrs Pearston said that the Snowdrop Campaign, which played a major part in bringing about tighter frearms legislation after Dunblane, would officially disband on the day of the election.

007 goes to SNP's aide

Realistic enough at least to know that letters from politicians go straight in the bin, the Scottish National Party has sent its supporters and waverers an appeal signed by the party's bestknown overseas supporter, the actor Sean Connery. "Everywhere I go in the world people want to know about Scotland and why we tolerate our affairs being run by someone else's government," says Mr Connery, a resident of Marbella in Spain.

Some 500,000 copies of the letter are being sent out. The 66-year-old actor, a former James Bond whose visage peers from the page, says it is his "dearest wish to see Scotland free", but the Nationalists are keeping silent over whether he might join the campaign in person. Stephen Goodwin

PM's yow to Scots fishermen

John Major promised Scottish fishermen that he would stand firm against Europe until the problem of quota-hoppers had been resolved. He gave three pledges to Scotland's fishermen in a letter to Robert Allan, chief executive of the Scotlish Fishermen's Federation, during his campaign trip to the north east of Scotland. Meanwhile, Henry McLeish, Labour's Scotlish campaign co-ordinator, claimed that only his party could fight successfully for the reform of the European Common Agricultural Policy to help Scottish farmers. Sam Coates

Bookies cut winning odds

William Hill has cut the odds on the Tories forming a government with an overall majority from 15/2 to 6/1, while the odds on them being the largest single party have narrowed from 9/2 to 7/2. Labour remains favourite, though its odds have lengthened from 1/8 to 1/6 to be the largest party and from 1/6 to 2/9 to win an overall majority.

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Poll fever inspires new class In the real world



Young voters at Durham Johnston comprehensive school have a unique election opportunity many of their adult counterparts

might welcome. Among the four candidates standing in this Durham comprehensive mock-election are representatives of old and new Labour, battling it out with each other as well as with their Liberal Democrat and Tory rivals.

The divisions so carefully plastered over at national level hroke apart at Durham Johnston when politics student Rosa Aers, 16, offered to stand for Labour only if she could stick to her Bennite principles and propose re-nationalisation, uni-

Lucy Ward finds political passion stirring in the sixth-form

lateral nuclear disarmament and a decent minimum wage. "We felt we ought also to have a speaker who was more representative of new-Labour thinking," explains John Dunford, the head teacher, and 18year-old Jonathan Rollason, a national debating champion, was roped in to fill the gap. New Labour's man, with his

outsize red rose, suit and tie and winning oratory, was clearly born for the hustings, but he is the only one of the four sixth formers living in a safe Labour seat who has no firm political convictions.

Tony Blair, who once lived within the school's catchment area, but who attended Durham Chorister prep school just across the city, could still win this waverer's general-election vote, but so might Paddy Ashdown. Lib Dem candidate Rebecca

Higgins, 17, is too young to vote for real but has supported her party "ever since I can remember". At the lectern in front of 230 attentive sixth-formers yesterday, she urged: "If everyone who agreed with the Liberal Democrats voted for us we would

Claire Matheson, 17, admits that as a teenage Tory she is a rare find in the staunchly Labour North-East. "Only the Conservatives will offer opportunities for all, including the chance of a good education and a job," she proclaimed, adeptly brushing aside questions on

party divisions over Europe. The mock election at Durham Johnston, one of more than 3,600 schools nationwide to hold its own poll, has succeeded in stirring political passion in the classrooms where the national version has not, students say.

The corridors are plastered with poster-slogans: "Twenty years ago the North-East had mines, now it has unemployment," says old Labour, while the Tories take a hreak from negative campaigning with "dynamic - the party and the candidate"...

The hustings each morning this week have been lively, with candidates pinned down on Europe, tax and education, and - in a bold departure from traditional political practice - attempting to answer questions.

The school can act as a counterweight to the national

apathy and raise interest in the election," says Mr Dunford. So, who from Durham Johnston would have won the key to Number 10? Jonathan romped home by a 25-vote margin over old Labour, and, bringing up the rear, was the valiant Tory can-

didate, Claire, with 27 votes. Third came Rebecca, who knows her party will not be gov-erning on 2 May, and second was Rosa, aspiring Labour MP and self-confessed "school-communist", who says it is politicians who behave like schoolchildren. "They bicker and fight like little boys in the playground. It is as if they have forgotten they

it's very difficult to be different

on the undecided list.

I am a natural Conservative voter, and I oppose the idea of too much state interference and central control. But on the face of it we now have two Conservon twe new nave do consav-ative parties, one led by Blair, one led by Major. Blair's one may not turn out to be as Con-servative as it now appears, whereas Major's is so utterty di-vided it does not deserve a vote.

What issues affect the way that you will vote? If, as Clinton said, the econo-

my is everything, then why should anyone throw out Ma-jor? Whether he should be given the credit, or whether it happened by accident, the country is in extraordinarily good shape.

The greatest issue today, how-ever, is Europe. But I don't think anybody knows what a future in Europe holds, or understands it fully. The Conservative Party are divided. It is unclear what their policy is on Europe as they are frightened to say if they have one. But I don't think Tony Blair is going to be so different. In the real world it's very difficult to be

How does living in Kensing-ton and Chelsea affect the

way you vote? If it wasn't for Alan Clark, I'd certainly be voting for Tony Blair. I like Major and Blair both personally. I think they are terribly decent, cheerful people. Blair must be given credit for the extraordinary transformation he pulled off in the Labour Party. On the other hand, I also like Alan Clark. The more eccentrics we get in the House of Commons, the better, so I lean

towards him as a human being. The bottom line is that whatever I vote in my constituency the outcome is as good as decided. So I'm voting purely

How will you vote? Sometimes I've forgotten to vote. But I've decided this time on the window leading to the state of the I will, because I feel, however pathetic, like having my 60 millionth of a per cent recorded. There's the added incentive that the polling station is in the Leyton House Museum, round the corner from my house. They've just put up a few nice pictures, so I may as well go and have a look at them.

Which politicians do you Apart from Alan Clark for his



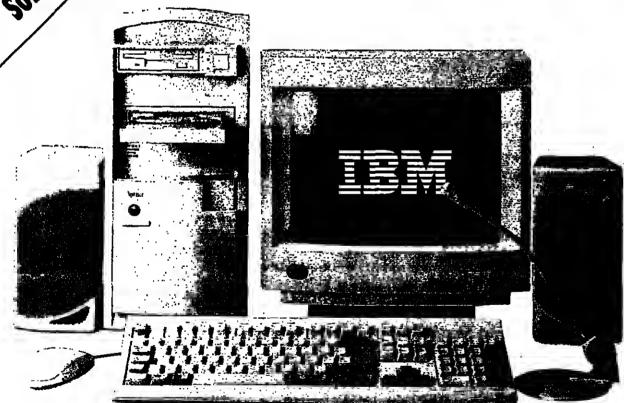
Clarke. I think he's done a ter-rific joh. I admire John Major and Tony Blair, but I don't think you could get very excit-ed about any of the others.

When did you first acquire an interest in politics?

At school I voted for Clement Attlee. Together with Thatcher, they were the great prime ministers of this century. Thereafter I remained a natural Conservative, sometimes voting, sometimes not. So I'm not what could be called a dedicated Conservative. If this time round I do vote for Labour and they then become extremely left-wing, I and many others will feel very let down. If they do get voted in, it is because they are essentially watered down Conservatives.

Interview by Sam Coates

Colling to induded



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MICHAEL WINNE

Peru hostage-takers' fatal own goal Spectacular rescue marked a triumph for

صكدا من الأصل

months of meticulous planning

Christopher Bellamy and agencies

Those who dared won. Thesday night's assault on the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima rescued 71 of 72 hostages and killed all 14 Tupac Amaru (MRTA) guerrillas holding them, including its best military commander, Nestor Cerpa, and two teenage womeo. The British SAS were not directly involved in the attack but the involved in the attack, but the operation had the hallmarks of their style. It was a huge political and military gamble, and came as a surprise to the hostage-takers

The Peruvian special forces, probably advised, trained and equipped by the SAS, the US Delta Force and the German GSG9, achieved a spectacular success. Surprise was assured because the hostage-takers had become used to a long stand-off, and the momeot wheo they would have expected an armed attack had passed. Such operations also usually take place at night, dusk or dawn. This one took place in mid-afternoon.

The commando force that carried out the strike had rehearsed the rescue. They took over an island near Lima aod built a mock-up of the mansion. Television showed footage of commandos in masks training for a raid, blowing a bole in the roof of the replica building. swinging open doors with their weapons ready and sliding down ropes.

The crucial element of the plan was a tunnel dug under the reception hall in the residence, where a number of the guerrillas had begun to play football regularly. That turned out to be their fatal mistake. The tunnel was vital for surveillance, because the ambassador's residence was an isolated building, unlike the Iranian embassy in London, which the SAS aumonues nad plans of the buge speakers outside the res-building and knew every venti-idence to mask the sound of the been quite small-big explosions lation shaft, but to insert mi-



Amaru, Part of the 140-strong

special-forces team, which had

been hiding in a house behind

the resideoce, then poured

through the front gate and

blasted open the front door of

the residency, while another team attacked from the rear and

a third moved up a fire escape

on to the roof-the hostages' exit

The hostage-takers were

probably shot on sight without

ture them. Their main demand

had been the release of 400 Tu-

pac Amaru prisoners. The au-

route from the building.

dom ride: Peruvian special forces troops carrying away a hostage as the siege of the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima ends

hostage seizures.

one of 72 hostages.

disorient the hulk of the Tupac more prisoners to that total, sion. "I was sitting there and

providing motivation for further

said Richard Clutterbuck, an

expert on counter-terrorism.

"It was classic in every way. Very good intelligence, very good planning, not rushing it." The

hostages were alerted to the im-

minent rescue - which partly ac-

counts for the smooth

evacuation and the loss of only

up to Juan Julio Wicht to warn

him they were about to be

"It was absolutely brilliant"

Photograph: Reuters

the start of the 126-day standoff, an American instructor

soldiers and two officers - plus three experts from the Metropolitan Police flew to Lima shortly after the bostages were taken. There are reports that

er security experts were in-volved in planning the and "pinhead" cameras - was operation, though they did not flown to Peru as diplomatic ke part dire Elite Peruvian police learned flew weapons, stun grenades how to rescue hostages and and explosives to the US. They

said yesterday. Six members of the Hereford-based SAS - four secret monitoring, surveillance and signals equipment - in-

"I was eitting there and they came up to me and sald: 'They're going to frea us in a few minutes. Stay calm'. So I thought It was a joke, because we made lots of black jokes." Jesuit priest Juan Luis Wicht, who turned down a chance for treedom

with 225 hostages released in December.

"We were so absorbed in ending the game, so into it, that we only realised what was going on when It was obvious [the troops] were coming in."

Luis Chang Ching, a

Peruvian congressman, who was playing chess with Father Wicht when the rescue bid began.

"Everything that has happened seams unreal to me. But I am proud of my son as he has died giving his blood, his life for his comredes." The mother of rebel

leader Nestor Cerpa, who died during the rescue

"I thought for sure ha would be one of the dead, especially when all those bombs went off ... Ha looked scared, but he appeared happy to be alive and free. Everyone was crying."

Fernando Bobbio, 60, the brother of General Zevallos, who spotted his brother as he watched TV at home in New York,

"It was amazing to stage a raid like that in the middle of the day ... The Japanese do things

much differently." Haruhiko Nakaji, a Tokyo businessman

"Everything went fine, Everybody is applaud-ing, if things had gone badly they would have called him Irresponsible. Argentine President

Compiled by

Fujimori's gamble reaps huge political dividend

in January, working in shifts. Po-lice played martial music over area where the hostage-takers

had to get them there, which a combination of medieval tun-

nelling and hi-tech. With sur-

veillance devices in place, the

authorities were able to deter-

mine exactly where the hostages

were kept - and where the

This and the fact that the

hostage-takers congregated.

hostage-takers had begun play-ing football on a regular basis

gave the authorities an ideal op-

portunity to strike, immobilis-

ing perhaps half the 14 Tupac

would have put the hostages at

meant digging a tunnel. The sur-veillance is believed to have been

the Tupac Amaru balted nego-

tiations because, they said, they

thought authorities were digging

a tunnel. The authorities in-

sisted it was "an invention". But

the guerrillas were right. La Re-

publica said professional min-

ers brought started the tunnel

During the four-month siege

supervised by FBI experts.

Colin Harding

President Alberto Fujimori ran an enormous risk, when he or-dered the storming of the ambassador's residence without informing his Japanese counterpart, when the resolve of the Movimeoto Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA) guerrillas inside the building appeared to

be weakening.
The reasons for the President's decisioo may have had as much to do with political as with strategic considerations. Mr Fujimori's popularity, which had been built on his success in pacifying a country torn by a vir-tual civil war since the early Eighties, had begun to wane since the oew year. His per-ceived weakness in failing to bring about a swift resolution of the hostage crisis was one of the factors behind the President's. declining prestige.
But there were other, perhaps

more significant, reasons. A spiralling crime rate and evi-deoce of vicious infighting and corruption within the security forces added to the impression that the authoritarian Mr Fujimori was losing his grip on his government, which depends heavily on the backing of the armed forces.

The military, who came badly out of a brief war with neigh-bouring Ecuador in 1995, had become embroiled in accusations of torturing and "disap-



A Tokyo businessman reading the news Photograph: AFP

ed that the President's closest adviser had accumulated large, mexplained amounts of moncy while earning only a modest

flagging credibility.

The scene was set, a few days before the assault on the ambassador's residence, when two

for a military solution to the hostage crisis, for which police inefficiency was hlamed.

Nobody in Peru has dared to suggest that the President So both Mr Pujimori and the military badly needed a dra-matic success to restore their should have persevered a little longer with attempts to nego-

tiate a settlement. Even the op-position parties agree that Mr Pujimori was left with no choice because of the intransigence of senior generals were suddenly the MRTA guerrillas. The latreplaced as minister of the interior and as national police ter had recently reduced their chief. Their removal seems to have been part of a compromise than 400 jailed comrades to avoiding a similar decline.

Fullmon's decision to end oegotiations has not been ques tioned, and all sides joined in applauding the skill and brav-ery of the 148 commandos who carried out the rescue.

The MRTA representative in

Europe has warned of dire ret-

ribution for the bloody outcome of the embassy siege. But it is doubtful whether the MRTA has the capacity to do much more than make a puisance of itself. Perhaps one column of 200 fighters is still operating in the jungles beyond the Andes. But the movement's leader, Victor Polay Campos, remains in prison, and its most experienced military commander, Nestor Cerpa, died in the smoke and din of the Japanese residence. Mr Fujimori's long-standing

surgencies that almost brought Peru to its knees a few years ago are finished, may now be ap-proaching the truth. The fundamentalist Maoists of the Shining Path movement have never recovered from the cap ture of their founder and ideologue, Abimael Guzman (alias Chairman Gonzalo), in September 1992. Until that point they appeared to be heading for military victory, but they are oow split and demoralised.

claim that the two left-wing in

It is hard to see the MRTA always a much less formidable and ideologically committed demand for the release of more organisation than Shining Path, 1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' - What Mortgage Magazine.

they came up to me and said:

They're going to free us in a few

minutes. Stay calm'," he said

"So I thought it was a joke, because we made lots of black

jokes." The similarity with oth-

er anti-terrorist operations and

past Penryian contacts with the

British suggest the SAS and oth-

freed, the Jesuit thought it was just another joke to ease the ten-

yesterday.

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Japan pays tribute to bold move

Richard Lloyd Parry

"How can anyone criticise President Fujimori?" asked Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, a few hours after the news broke of the end of the Lima siege. "It is not important whether we had prior knowledge of the move. The important thing is that the hostages were freed."

In the circumstances, no one in Japan is likely to argue with this But President Fujimori's decision to send in his soldiers unilaterally, without so much as a phone call to Tokyo, was

Japan. In the end, Mr Hashimoto can shrug off the slight (in a phone conversation with Mr Fuimori, he expressed "regret" at not being warned, but thanked the President anyway). But if the operation had gone wrong, and Japanese hostages had been killed, the humiliation and outrage could have had long-last-

ing repercussions.
To Peru, Japan is more than just a rich trading partner - it is its biggest foreign benefactor and the ancestral home of thou-

fraught with risks - not just to sands of its people, including its the hostages, but to the crucial president. More than 96 hillion relationship between Peru and yen (£500m) of development yen (£500m) of development loans are ned up in Peru, whose exports to Japan were worth \$540m (£333m) in 1995. The Japanese Prime Minister also had much at stake. In

deal between warring factions

inside the government and the military. It also cleared the way

25 months in power, Mr Hashimoto has cultivated a tough and dynamic image. But the Japanese public reacts badly to the deaths of Japanese nationals overseas, and in the 1970s Tokyo acquired a reputation for being soft on terrorism after a sequence of

Throughout the crisis. Mr Hashimoto steered a delicate line - publicly ruling out any compromise but bringing in-tense diplomatic pressure on Peru to avoid violence. Mr Puimori's decision to ignore this injunction was a huge gamble if Japanese blood had flowed the outery would have virtually compelled Mr Hashimoto to behave with visible toughness towards Peru.

As it is, Mr Fujimori chose to take full responsibility and he reaps the credit. The glory reflected upon Mr Hashimoto MANCHESTER

EMU membership: European Commission says 13 countries, including Britain, will make the grade

Italy fails first test to join single currency

The European Commission yesterday declared Italy unfit to join the single currency, hased on present economic forecasts, causing sparks to fly in Brussels and creating political ructions

The row over Italy's failure so far to make the Euro-grade ave a foretaste of the hitter divisions which will hreak out across Europe when the final rulings on which countries qualify to join the single currency are made next year.

Prior to release of the data the Italian government, headed by Romano Prodi, who has staked his future on bringing Italy into the single currency at the launch, was widely reported to have exerted pressure on the Commission to alter the figures. Emma Bonino, the Italian commissioner for consumer affairs. protested vigorously over the Commission's findings.

On other fronts, however, the Commission's outlook was suprisingly optimistic. Figures showed that a total of 13 countries - including Germany, France, Britain and Spain - will meet the key economic test. which requires countries to bring their public deficits down to 3 per cent of gross domestic product.

This was many more than indicated by separate forecasts national Monetary Fund. In its by the financial markets, France, Germany, the UK and Spain will also just miss the 3 per

There is slower progress on the reduction of debt in the Commission's forecast, but it clearly believes its optimistic new growth forecast of 2.4 per cent for this year will help most

countries turn the corner. Both Spain and Portugal are also expected to make the grade, although many analysts predict that it would be politi-cally impossible for Europe to refuse entry to Italy, a founder member, while accepting Spain

Yesterday's Commission figures were aweited with unprecedented interest as the deadline for decision-time on economic and monetary union draws nearer. Decisions on which countries qualify will be hased on economic figures for this year, and will be made at a special council by heads of state and government in May next year, ahead of the launch on

January 1st 1999. Britain, which is expected to have brought its deficit down to 2.9 per cent of GDP this year, is now highly likely to qualify, unless other states continue to insist that the requirement to be part of the exchange rate mechanism be strictly enforced.

During the increasingly Euro-sceptic debate characterising the British election cam-

that Britain must continue to "wait and see" before deciding whether to join EMU at the launch, giving the electorate the impression that decision-time for Britain still lies some way off.

However, as yesterday's announcement in Brussels reaffirmed, most other member states are already lining up at the starting gate.

Under the Maastricht Treaty, Britain must notify its partners of whether it wishes to be con-EMU by the end of this year. Any suggestion that Europe is fudging the convergence criteria in the final months will be seized on by British Euro-

sceptics as further grounds to stay outside and will also spur conflict between other member states. Yesterday Yves Thibault de Silguy, the economic commissioner, rejected suggestions that there had been any "tinkering or trading" with the figures, and presented his experts' findings as proof that Europe was now

well on the road" to the EMU

the way the Commmission has calculated its forcasts remain. Yesterday Mr de Silguy was challenged to justify how the Commission could have produced such a long list of qualifiers, in view of more cautious economic forecasts, from other expert bodies.



Euro-rebuke wounds Prodi's pride

Andrew Gumbel Rome

There could have been no clearer sign of the helplessness of the Italian government: when the countries hoping to qualify for the single European currency, scarcely anyone had the IMF world forecast, page 21 strength to sound indignant.

Qualifying for monetary union on time has been the policy backbone of Romano Prodi's government, and failure will almost certainly spell its downfall. But yesterday the politicians could barely put a hrave public face on the Commission's conclusions. Only Mr Prodi had the courage to call them "incomprehensible". The financial markets barely

According to the Commis-sion's calculations, Italy will be close but not close enough to the 3-per-cent deficit-to-Gross-Domestic-Product ratio stipulated by the Maastricht treaty by the end of this year. It is then set to slide backwards towards a ratio of 3.9 per cent in 1998.

The Commission report did not rule out Italy's chances, but it made clear that further deep structural changes in the economy would be necessary to put the country back in the running. The report was a stinging as-

ault to Italy's pride. It is hardly flattering for a G7 country to be relegated below Spain and Portugal and left floundering just above Greece in the European pecking order.

The writing has been on the wall for some time. Because of the byzantine and contradictory architecture of Italy's govaming coalition, last month's pends for his majority in the

to deliver the austerity medicine that was needed, resorting instead to statistical manipulations that fooled nobody. The same political difficulties

almost scuppered the Italian-led intervention force which is now in Albania - an operation intended to boost Italy's interna-tional credibility but which has turned into banana-skin hell.

The latest slip-up was a cruel but accurate illustration of the government's general discomfort: the Italian flagship, the Vittorio Veneto, spent all of Tuesday and part of yesterday stuck on a windswept sandbank outside the port of Vlora, Mr Prodi's only chance of sur-

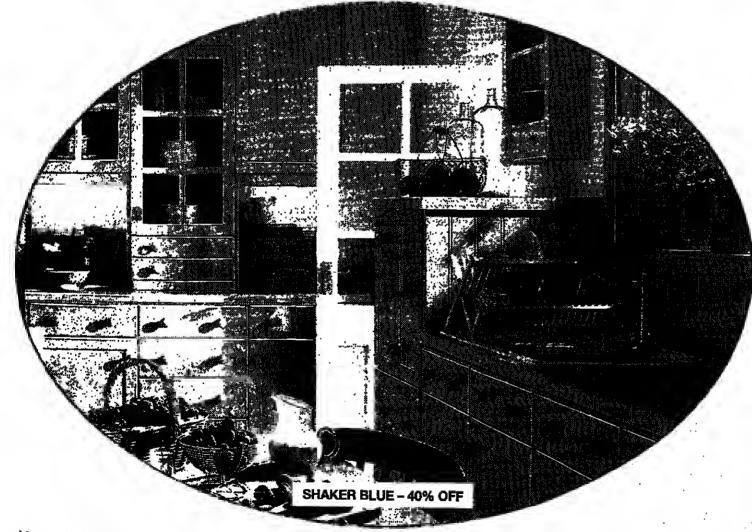
vival is to undertake a massive reform of the bloated, inefficient welfare state by the end of the year. His government is willing, but the party on which he de-

mini-budget completely failed lower house of parliament, Rifondazione Comunista, opposes any cuts in public spending in the name of monetary

> Two likely scenarios present themselves. According to the first, the impasse continues. Italy is left out of Europe and the government falls, According to the second, the Prodi government draws up a welfare reform programme, Rifondazione votes against and a crisis looms. The centre-right opposition then comes to the rescue, offers to vote for the welfare reform package hut insists on the government's resignation as the price.

> are numbered. Whether Italy's prospects in Europe can be salvaged while his supporters set about the task of dumping him

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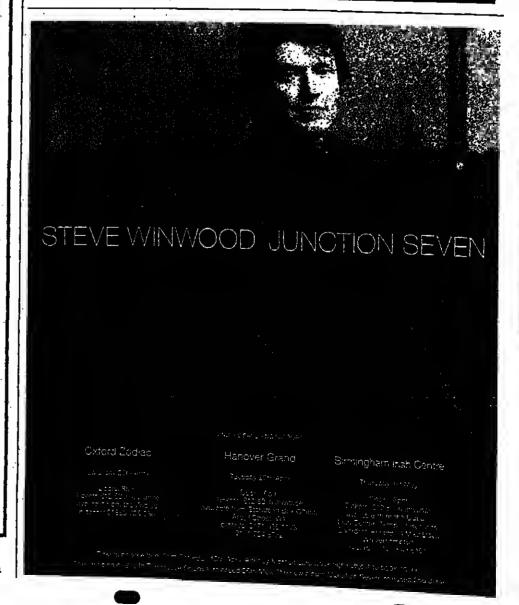
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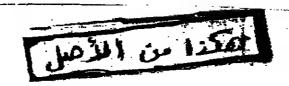
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Leading article, page 17

Saddam's clan get full treatment at Uday's bedside

Patrick Cockburn

It was a tense meeting. Earlier this year Saddam Hussein, gathered the closest member of his family - the inner core of his regime - around the hospital bedside of Uday, his eldest son, paralysed by a bullet in the spine after an assassination attempt last December.

The Iraqi leader told his rel-atives who had come to the Ibn Sina hospital that their "craving for people's property" had be-come the talk of Iraq. He said their behaviour was damaging him and his regime. Pointing to Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of the Iraqi leader famous for his hrutality, the President said he had "played an important role in prompting me to make the decision to enter Kuwait." And once installed as governor of Iraq's new, 19th province, in 1990, he said: "You looted half the valuables looted in Kuwait?. He reminded Ali Hassan he was

nnce "a driver in Kirkuk". Others got an equally rough ride. Half-brother Sab awi was meant to be a director of the security services hut "he goes to his office at 11am, half asleep". President Saddam utters vague threats against his other half-brother Barzan, Iraq's ambas-

sador in Geneva since 1988, say-ing: "I should not have left him all this time." Even Uday, facing a dangerous operation to re-move the bullets in his body, is asked: "Are you a politician, a trader, a people's leader or a

playboy?"
The transcript of the meeting was first published by the London-based magazine al-Wasat and has become the subject of intense discussion among Iraqi opponents of the regime. Who leaked the document, and why? President Saddam himself is the most likely culprit. His criticisms seem carefully scripted to show many of the nastier episodes in Iraq's recent history were not, as had been imagined, the fault of Saddam Hussein himself, but of his greedy relatives.

For instance, Gen Omar al-Hazaa, a member of the Iraqi leader's clan known for his deminciations of the regime when in his cups at the officers cluh in Baghdad, was executed in 1990. Saddam Hussein was blamed. But this turns out to have been unfair. Addressing Ali Hassan al-Majid, the Iraqi leader says: "It was you and Hussein Kamel [another son-in-



caused me to execute Omar al-Hazaa and his sons". It was they who had the house of Gen Hazaa in Baghdad demolished by a bulldozer.

On the face of it, the Iraqi leader is past rehabilitation. So what good will it do him? The President may not know the extent to which he has entered Western demonology. A Palestinian leader who met him before the Gulf War discovered he did not know he had appeared on the covers of Time and Newsweek: He excitedly asked the Palestinian to get copies of the magazines from his hotel.

President Saddam throws an interesting light on the politics

There may be a more subtle message in the leaked document. President Saddam may want to emphasise that his relatives are as bad as he is, in case anybody should think of replacing him by them. There is a note of self-pity which also seems anthentic. In the case of the killing of Omar al-Hazaa, out after his death, he says: "It will always be said that Saddam did that; people will not say that Ali Hassan and Hussein Kamel did it."

nf his inner family. He relates how the governor of Kirkuk, a city in north-east Iraq, telephoned him because he had stopped trucks smuggling grain into Iran. These turned nut to belong to Ali Hassan al-Majid. Another target is his third half-brother Watban, former interior minister, shot through the leg by Uday at a drunken party on the banks of the Tigris in 1995. He says: "The Interior Ministry was ruined during your term?. President Saddam mentions that he had fined him, presum-

Up until 1995 Saddam Hus-

sein's family seemed determined to stick together. Then Uday shot his uncle Watban through the leg and Hussein Kamel fled to Jordan. He was killed no his return last year. Five months ago a relative of Gen al-Hazaa told gunmen where they could find Uday one night in Baghdad. He survived, but is crippled. President Saddam may want

to reassert control over his family. He may have hoped also that by spreading the blame for past atrocities, he may persuade the world to be more ac-

cal foes in the 1960s and even

forming itself politically than

economically, is fascinated by

China, which has made an eco-

nomic breakthrough while leav-

significant shorts

Clinton starts campaign to expand Nato east

The Clinton administration formally launched its campaign to win US Senate support for Naturellargement, with the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, ruling out compromise with Russia on a key demand blocking an alliance security agreement with Moscow, "Russia would also like us to make absolute commitments in the (proposed Russia-Natn) charter about the deployment of nuclear and conventional forces on the territory's new members. But we will not compromise on this issue," she told the Senate Armed Services Committee. Reuters - Washington

Rebels accused of massacre

Zairean villagers said Tutsi-dominated rebels slaughtered many Rwandan Hutu refugees at camps south of Kisangani and aid workers said they had reports that up to 55,000 refugees had fied. The villagers, travelling towards Kisangani, said a pitched battle between rebels and or travelling towards accompanied the slaughter on Tuesday at companied the slaughter of Tuesday at refugees accompanied the slaughter on Tuesday at camps oear Kasese village, 25 km (15 miles) south of Kisangani.

Embattled politician backed

Thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews in black hats and suits Anousands of utra-Orthodox yews in black hats and suits rallied yesterday in support of the religinus-party leader Arich Deri, the nnly politician expected to be charged in a high-level influence-trading scandal. "If he was guilty, all the others would have been guilty," said Yehuda Cohen, a 16-year-old seminary student. "This is discrimination against a religious man." Mr Deri, leader of the religious Shas party is expected in he indirect on extraction, hence the state of the religious shas party is expected in he indirect on extraction. Shas party, is expected to be indicted on extortion charges. The Attorney-General said there was not enough evidence tn charge the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, or the Justice Minister, Tsachi Hanegbi, who were also linked to

Cultists trained in Russia

Members of the Japanese Aum Shinri Kyo doomsday cult, which is accused of staging a deadly nerve-gas attack on Tokyo subways, underwent military training in Russia, a Russian investigator said yesterday. Senior investigator Boris Uvarov, of the state prosecutor's office, said a "whole chain of generals" used to arrange military workouts for wealthy foreigners at army bases in the years that followed the Soviet collapse, Aum used the opportunity to provide certain members with combat training, he said. The Russian generals "leased their practice grounds for alleged touring programmes. practice grounds for alleged touring programmes. Foreigners enjoy firing the Kalashnikov sub-machine-gun, flying our helicopters, parachute-jumping – suit yourselves, just pay," Mr Uvarov said.

AP – Moscow

Floodwaters recede

The level of muddy floodwater crept downwards yesterday, helping a National Guard sandbagging hlitz save a power station that keeps a few lights burning hrightly in what remains of this submerged city. The Red River has been falling since early Tuesday and was down to 53.5 feet (16.3m) yesterday, said the US Geological Survey.

AP – Grand Forks, North Dakota

Hostage relatives end visit

Relatives of Western tourists kidnapped by Kashmiri separatists nearly two years agn ended their four-day visit to Kashmir valley yesterday with little success in the hostages' fate. "We don't know the truth whether the hostages are alive or dead. That's the position of the government as well," Julie Mangan, whose husband, Keith Mangan, is among the missing men, told reporters. AP - Srinagar

Ciller warns off military

The Deputy Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, yesterday told the military to stay out of politics. Turkey's military, which sees itself as the guardian of the country's secular tradition. has heen at loggerheads for months with the Islamic-led government. Ms Ciller, whose True Path party is part of the Islamic-led coaliting government, said in a speech that "politics is the job of elected politicians."

Race-attack Germans jailed

A German court yesterday sentenced two young thugs in 15 and eight-year jail terms for a racist attack on Italian building workers which left nne of the victims paralysed and barely able to speak. The court in Potsdam near Berlin found both men guilty of attempted murder for attacking the Italians with a baseball bat in the town of Trebbin last September after setting out on what the presiding judge called a "real manhunt."

Reuters - Potsdam

Pulitzer columnist critical

The Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Mike Royko, whose commentaries appear in newspapers across the United States, was in critical condidnn yesterday after suffering a seizure at his home, a hospital said. Reuters - Chicago

Yeltsin signs China friendship treaty

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Russia turns eastward to forge new friendship after failing to halt Nato plans

Russia and China, closer now than at any time since the doomed Sino-Soviet alliance of the 1950s, yesterday issued a ioint declaration on strategic cooperation for the 21st century. They denied they were uniting against any particular country bot, in calling for a "multi po-

crearry implied criticism of the United States, the only remaining superpower.
The historic agreement was

signed when the Chinese president Jiang Zemin met Boris Yeltsin in the gilded hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. "We have not signed such a docular world" in which no nation ment with any other country" played a dominant role, they said Mr. Yeltsin, who has been trying to diversify Russian foreign policy since failing to persuade Nato against the need for eastward expansion.

The 66-year-old Russian leader lacked his usual verve at the signing ceremony, hut Michael De Bakey, the American surgeon whn acted as a consultant during his heart operation last November, said

that flu was the problem, further heart trouble.

President Yeltsin and his guest from Peking expressed

their "concern over the attempt at enlarging and strengthening military blocks because such a tendency may ... aggravate regional and global tension". Instead of this, their declaration said, it was time for a new

weak, rich or poor, are equal members of the international community. No country should seek hegemony, practise power politics or monnpulise international affairs." The extracts of the document which were made available in the press contained few concrete details on how to achieve this goal. But the two presidents

United Nations, and also called for continuing disarmament. Today, together with the leaders of the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyr-gyzstan and Tajikistan, they will gyzstan and Tajikistan, they will which has pushed it into the arms sign a treaty cutting armed forces along the former Soviet-

Chinese frontier. It was here, 28 years ago, that relations between the two Communist giants reached rock bot-tom. After Stalin and Mao had worked enthusiastically tngether in the 1950s, supporting North Korea in its war with the South, the Soviet Union and China became bitter ideologi-

came to hlows on their common border in 1969. world order. "The Cold War has But Mikhail Gorbachev healed the rift by visiting Peking ended. The bipolar system has ceased to exist. The positive trend inwards a multipolar in 1989 and relations have been steadily warming since, Russia. world is accelerating. All counwhich has had more success retries, big or small, strong or

ing its monolithic Communist system more or less intact. The Kremlin hopes to use this week's five-day visit by President Jiang to show the West that, since Nato insists on expanding against its wishes, Russia has no choice but to widen the range of its friendships. China yesterday complained about Bill Clinton's stressed the importance of the decision to meet the exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, which it sees as another example

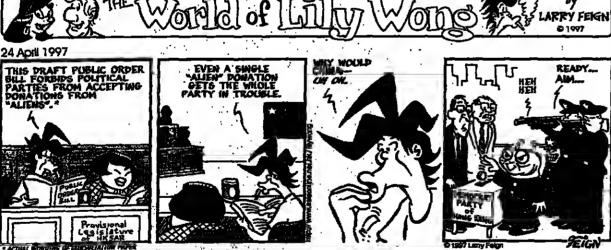
of the kind of US moralising

pains to stress, however, that Russo-Chinese co-operation stopped short of a formal alliance and was not aimed against any third country. "The very suggestion of plans to cre-ate some counter blocs are wrong and counter productive." said the Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky.









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Denis Compton

Denis Compton was not only one of cricket's finest batsmen but as great an entertainer as the sport has seen. Perhaps no man, and certainly no sportsman, did more for English morale than Compton and his hatting in the aftermath of the Second World War. During the long hot summer of 1947, which followed an unfairly ferocious winter, he nourished the nation in no small way by enjoying - so visibly - a more opulent season than anyone has known in the history of the first class game. It is no exaggeration to say that Compton brought back a feeling of gaiety to a ravaged people as no propaganda film, or even Churchillian speech, could have done.

In his summer of summers Compton scored 3,816 first class runs, at an average of 90.85 per innings, which surpassed by some 300 runs the old aggregate by Tom Hayward: while his 18 centuries surpassed the 16 made by Sir Jack Hohbs in 1925, (Both records will be impossible to beat so long as the English season retains its present shape.)

Most of his runs were made

in the name of Middlesex or of England, but in anything other than the literal sense they were scored on behalf of all cricket followers in the country. For in his prime Compton was the most daring, and spectacular, exponent of that old-fashioned cricket which was played below the height of the bails, without thigh or chest protector, let alone a belimet. And the joy that he generated was the more, as he little knew the effect be had.

His "Middlesex Twin". Bill Edrich (who died in 1986), was almost as effective in 1947. But, as R.C. Robertson-Glasgow wrote at the time: "Compton is poetry; Edrich is prose, robust and clear." Together they were partners in many an adventure, not only their thirdwicket stand of 370 for England against South Africa in 1947, or their 424 for Middlesex against Somerset in 1948, both records which still stand. When on tour they roistered with a vitality which the tabloids today would never allow in English cricketers. The jest was made that 'Compo" was best man at Bill Edrich's third wedding, and

third man at his best wedding. The tourists in 1947 were the South Africans, for whom Compton always had a special Tests, but only eight innings, he hit them for four centuries. while his aggregate of 753 remains a record for an England

player in a home series. But again it was the way he batted which mattered most, for he communicated his enjoyment to the largest crowds which have ever flocked to English cricket.
If his style can be defined, it was a cross between the classicism of Wally Hammond and the eccentricity of Derek Randall, as Compton made forays down the pitch to sweep the spinners or cover-drive the quicker bowlers, hefore flicking back the famous Brylcreemed bair and

giving another boyish grin.
Not only casual spectators,
but critics who should have been better informed, made the false assumption that Compton's brilliance was straight from nature. In fact he worked immensely hard to develop his gifts, when a boy on the MCC ground staff at Lord's. In his autobiography, End of an Innings (1958), he wrote:

Even those of my shots that cricket writers most like to describe as unorthodox – for instance, my habit of walking or running down the pitch to spinners – have been practised hour after hour, day after day, in the nets . . . I was too keen to succeed in both cricket and football to leave more to chance than was absolutely necessary. Even before he joined the

Lord's staff at the age of 15, Compton had been marked down as a special talent. The previous summer he had played his first game at Lord's, as captain of an Elementary Schools XI, and scored 114 in front of Sir Pelham Warner. Bowling in the nets at MCC members, he also learnt left-arm unorthodox spin, with which he was to take 622 first class wickets at an average of 32, although he was always too erratic for the bighest level. In the winters he was on the Arsenal ground staff, trying to emulate Cliff Bastin and Alex James at Highbury, as well as Patsy Hendren and Jack

Hearne at Lord's. for Middlesex when not quite 18, Compton went on to reach 1,000 runs in 1936, the youngest to have done so. The following season, when 19, he was capped by England against New



Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

MERCHANT: William Moelwyn. Professor and retired priest, peacefully
on 22 April 1997, aged 83 years. Dearb lowed husband of Lynne, father of
Christma and Paul and grandfather
to Helena. Owain and Luke. Funeral service at the Mid-Warwickshire
Crematorum, Oakley Wood, near
Leatnington Spa. on Mooday 28
April at 12,30pm. Family flowers
only but, if desired, donations may be
sent to Arden House Residential
Home. Lo H.J. Dawson Funeral Directors. 23 George Street, Learning Home, LUTEL Dawson Function of recture, 22 George Street, Learning ton Spa. A service of thanksgiving for his lite and work will be announced

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, relephone 0171-293 2012

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Prince of Wales, on Ichael of The Queen, helds an exterior of Wales, on Ichael of The Queen, helds an exterior of Wales, on the anomaly of Gianner parameter, of Casal wales from the anomaly of Gianner parameter, except with the Did Livary, St. Derm's Hall. Casal wale of Nation, 1985. National Ordertra of Agies, 1988. 1984. Livard Brandersking Stone. Carall The Dada of Education, Proceeding Stone. Casal The Dada of Education, Proceeding Stone.

Birthdays

Mr Ralph Brown, sculptor, 69; Field Marshal Lord Carver, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 82; Mr John Ernest Collins, former chairman, Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group. 74; Lord Coulsheld, Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 63: Sir Peter Cresswell, High Court judge, 53; Sir Clement Freud, writer and former MP, 73; Dame Helen Gardiner, former chief clerk, Private Secretary's Office, Buckingham Palace, 96; Mr Fred Heddell, chief executive, Mencap, 52; Rear-Admiral Sir Joseph Henley, 88; Mr Admiral Sir Joseph Henley, 88; Mr Richard Jarman, general director, Scottish Opera, 48; Miss Shirley Maclaine, actress, 63; Sir Hugh Park, former High Court judge, 87: Mr Str-art Pearce, footballer, 35; Mr Joseph Rank, president, Ranks Hovis Mc-Dougalt, 79; Miss Bridget Riley, painter, 66; Mr Martin Seymous-Smith, writer, 69; Miss Barbra Streisand, actress and singer, 33: Le Streisand, actress and singer, 55; Li-Col Stuart Townend, founder. Hill

Changing of the Guard

ton was not ideally suited to Test cricket with Australia, admitting that the game as played by Bradman - and subsequently by Hutton - was too ruthless and too negative for his liking. He had a technical weakness too. moving too far over to the off-side when leg-glancing and hit-ting the ball in the air. He averaged 50 in Tests over all, but only 42 against Australia, whereas Hutton against the oldest enemy maintained the same average of 56 that he had overall. After the war, if not before, Hutton settled for effectiveness, while Compton could not help retain some sense of fun. It is extraordinary, and yet in this sense appropriate, that

Hutton and Compton only once

stayed together long enough to

share a century partnership in

Test cricket, and that was against the West Indies in 1939. Still, a few of Compton's finest innings did come against Australia, most notably his two centuries in 1948. In the Nottingham Test, having missed a sweep in his first innings and been bowled for 0, he scored 184 and was close to saving the game when he slipped and fell on his wicket. In the third at Old Trafford he was hit on the head by Ray Lindwall, to return after stitches as a handaged hero and to inspire England from 119 for 5 wickets to 363 all out. He himself finished on 145 not out, although Lindwall in his flower shop in Brisbane years later pointed out that Compton had been hit by a slower ball

which he had top-edged. The deterioration of Comp ton's right knee affected his later performances against all countries. The trouble had started when he had collided with the Charlton Athletic goalkeeper in 1938-39, hut did not really trouble him until the winter of 1949-50, his last in professional football. Weeks after Making his first class début his Arsenal career had culminated in an FA Cup medal as their left-wing, he had some bone removed from his right knee and was left with reduced mobility. In 1950-51 Compton suffered one of the worst series by any England batsmen when he averaged seven against Australia. After 1949, although relatively consistent, he hit only four more Test centuries before his retirement in 1957.

He became a cricket writer for the Sunday Express, where he needed less journalistic help vision, until his voice sounded er life his pronouncements on South Africa became ever more extreme, until he, Bill Edrich and the right-wing MP John Carlisle joined in calling on the MCC to send a touring party to South Africa during their exclusion from world cricket. To some extent he knew not what he did, for he had seen only the best of the country as a white touring Test cricketer in the

Forties and Fifties. If he became a typical case of a sportsman to be seen and not heard, Compton should be long remembered for what he did on the field. As Robertson-Glasgow wrote of Compton and Edrich at the end of their unique summer: "They go together in English cricket, as Gilhert and Sullivan go together in English opera. Nor is the analogy to complete as a serious serious content of the superior the analogy so careless as you might suppose . . . In the art of giving pleasure to English audiences, both pairs lack rival."

Or, in the words of Sir Neville When cricket was begun again, after the Hitler war. Compton in his won-derful years of 1946-47 expressed by his cricket the renewed life and hopes of a land and nation that had come out of the dark abyss. In a period still sore and shabby and rationed, Compton spread his

House School, 88; Mr Frank Wheeler, ambassador to Chile, 59; Mr John Williams, guitarist, 56; Miss Paula Yates, television presenter, 37.

Births: William the Silent, Prince of

Births: William the Silent, Prince of Orange, 1533; Anthony Trollope, writer, 1815; Henri-Philippe Pétain, soldier and leader, 1856; Sir Richard Stafford Cripps, lawyer, diplomat and statesman, 1889. Deaths: Daniel Defoe, author, 1731; Bill (William John) Edrich, cricketer, 1986; The Duchess of Windsor (Wallis Warfield), 1986.

On this day: Mary, Queen of Scots, aged 16, married the Dauphin of France, 1558; the Garrick Theatre, London, opened, 1889; founded by

Sir Arthur Pearson, the first issue of

the Daily Express appeared, 1900. To-day is the Feast Day of St Egbert, St Fidelis of Signazingen, St Ives or Ivo, St Mary Enphrasia Pelletier, St Mel-litus of Capterbury and St William

Anniversaries

Daring and spectacular: Compton sends a ball to the leg boundary during the final Test against Australia, at the Oval, 1953, which saw England regain the Ashes Photograph: Hulton Getty

happy favours everywhere. The crowds sat in the sun, liberated from anxiety and privation. The strain of long years of affliction fell from all shoulders as Compton set the ball rolling or speeding or rippling right and left, as he leaned to it and swept it from the off round the leg boundary as he danced forward to danced ary, as he danced forward or danced backwards, his hair tousled beyond the pacifying power of any cream or unguent whatsoever ... yes, the crowd sunned themselves as much in Comp-ton's batting as in the beneficial rays

coming from the blue sky.

Men and women, boys and girls,
cheered him to his century, and ran
every one of his runs with him.

Scyld Berry

Although 1 used to watch Denis Compton play cricket be-witchingly at Lord's in the early Fifties, I didn't meet him until 40 years later when I was commissioned to write his hiography, writes Tim Heald. I can see him now, at the Savoy after lunch with the Saints and Sinners, beaving himself off the sofa (that game knee, those tiresome hips), holding out a hand and saying almost bashfully, "Hello. Denis Compton." This from possibly the most famous Englishman of his

generation. We spent a lot of time together over the next months, often over lunch. He was wonderful company, indefatigable, modest and touchingly brave. That kneecap of his which so blighted his career is preserved in a hiscuit tin at Lord's, like a saint's relic - which in a sense it is - though Denis blanched at the mere mention of so gruesome a souvenir. Shortly after one of his gritty comeback innings a specialist was shown an

X-ray of the Compton knee.

"That man," he said, "will

never walk again." Wherever I went with him he was recognised to the point of adulation. I remember walking out of lunch at the Travellers' Club and a whole centre table of ex-ambassadors rising as a man as a mark of respect. Denis, though gratified, was incredulous. And I recall the naughty-boy grin when, at Bri-an Johnston's wake, he was asked if he'd like a drink ad replied, "It's all right, old boy. The Prime Minister's getting me one. 'Cue for John Major with

a glass of red wine. Denis loved to give pleasure but I am not sure he ever understood quite how much he gave.
David Sheppard, best of all cricketer clerics, told me that as a schoolboy in Denis's miraculous summer of 1947 he batted and batted in the nets, hoping that, by constant practice, he might one day bat like Hutton,

but knowing that, no matter what, "I could never bat like Compton". At the end of every conversation Denis always signed off in exactly the same cheery way. "All right old boy? God bless!"
It was typical of the man that he sounded as if he meant it.

The 1997 Championship season began yesterday with a minute's silence before the start of play on every first class ground, a token of the love and affection all cricket held for Compton, writes Derek Hodgson. His death, days before the arrival of the latest Australian team, is especially poignant for it was his Christine Tobias (two daugh-performances against Australia, ters); died Windsor, Berkshire 23 particularly against Bradman's April 1997.

1948 Invincibles, that endeared him so much to an English audience still suffering a wartime

hangover. Four years ago, during the Texaco match against Australia at Lord's, the hand of the Coldstream Guards on the field at the interval to play "Happy Birthday": the crowd rose and Denis, celebrating his 75th birthday on the balcony, raised his glass and heamed in reply a rare distinction.

I once interviewed him about his wonderful 1947 summer. Every day, I suggested, it seemed to followers that there would be a Compton century -

was it as easy as shelling peas? The easy affability vanished. He came as near to bridling as perhaps was possible in such a good-natured man: "It may have seemed like that, reading the score cards. But it still had to be done: every 10 runs, every 25, every 50, and onwards. I did get very tired at times."

Denis Charles Scott Compton

cricketer: born Hendon, Mid-diesex 23 May 1918; Editor, Denis Compton's Annual 1950-57: cricket correspondent, Sunday Express 1950-97; cricket com-mentator, BBC Television 1958-97; CBE 1958; author of Playing for England 1948, Testing Time for England 1948, In Sun and Shadow 1952, End of an Innings 1958, Denis Compton's Test Diary 1964, Cricket and All That 1978; married 1941 (one son; marriage dissolved 1950), 1951 Valerie Platt (two sons; marriage dissolved 1968), 1975 Christine Tobias (two daugh-

Baroness Seear

Standing on Waterloo station one evening rattling a collect-ing box for Crisis at Christmas (which charity she also supported by serving meals to the homeless on Christman Day), Nancy Seear was approached by a woman. "Oh! I know you," she said. "You're the Liberal Lady."

Seear was extremely surprised to be recognised in public and secretly delighted, because she would not have wished to have been known in any other way. But for most of her life she was not as widely known, in public, as she became after the introduction of television into the House of Lords.

Her early years after Cam-bridge (where she read History) and a period in the 1930s living in Germany and seeing the beginnings of the rise of Hitler, were spent working as personnel officer for the Somerset shoe manufacturers of C. & J. Clark. There followed a stint, during the Second World War, with the Ministry of Aircraft Production working on the

Management Efficiency Board.
At the end of the war she
moved into academia in the
shape of the London School of Economics where she remained as a Reader in Personnel Management until retirement in 1978. It was felt by many that, as a woman, she personally encountered what today would be known as the glass-ceiling effect. However, her passion for women's rights in employment went far deeper than any personal feelings that experience may have brought her.

While scathing on the subject of positive discrimination she was fiercely active in campaigning for equal pay for work of equal value. The Times said in 1972: "Baroness Seear is to Feminists as Marx is to Marxists...Her works, on equal pay and opportunities, are for ever either being quoted, looked up

or written down . . ."
"Tm very cross," she would say, not looking so in the least, "that I am typecast with Women'. I am interested in a whole variety of things concerning the problems of work but because I hit upon research into women's problems, I look like being stuck with this tag." But she wasn't in any sense a chauvinist and had little sympathy with the more revolutionary as-pects of Women's Lib. "Revo-lutions," she said, "always backfire, you always get much further by plodding on." Not that she plodded at all. Her life was

a constant round of productive, if chaotic, activity throughout. Always deeply interested and rupt her on one television pro-active in politics, she was a life-gramme to "Shut up!" and he did long Liberal. She fought in every General Election from 1955 to 1970, in seats as widely scattered as Hornchurch, Truro, Epping, Wakefield and Rochdale, with a few lost deposits and no wins, but without her beliefs undermined or her

energy diminished. Greatly loved, if sometimes feared, in the Liberal Party where she was a formidable speaker at Party Assemblies, to the world in general she was not particularly well known. This was to change with her elevation to the peerage in 1971. She began to play a very active part in the



proceedings of the House of Lords while continuing her involvement in a varied range of outside bodies; membership of the Top Salaries Review Body; the presidencies of the Institute of Personnel Management, the Fawcett Society, the British Standards Institute and the Liberal Party, the chairmanships of the National Councils of Carers and of Single Women. (Woe betide anyone who ever addressed her as "Chair".) To all she brought the same vigour, determination and understanding, underpinned

peath

by a formidable intellect. In the House of Lords her advocacy, from the Liberal front hench, on employment and economic issues led to her becoming Chairman of a House of Lords Select Committee "to consider and make recommendations on long-term remedies for unemployment" which in 1981, under her guidance, pro-

duced a most significant Report. On the death of Frank Byers in 1984 she was the obvious choice for election to the leadership of the Liberal Peers, a move that was welcomed across the whole political spectrum in the House.

By then she had become a most effective performer. Not only did she spend a considerable amount of time on the front bench listening to and intervening with devastating logic at Questions and in Committee, but when she rose to speak in debates her contributions were among the most lis-House. Her ability to deal with the most complex subjects with total clarity was made even more impressive by the fact that she was never ever known to use a single note. It was this picture that impressed the audiences when television was introduced into the Lords in 1985.

A firm supporter of the Lib-eral/SDP Alliance and of the merger to form the Liberal Democrats, she insisted on hand-ing over the leadership to Roy Jenkins immediately on his joining the Lords in 1988. An act of selflessness of which Lord Jenk-ins said he knew no parallel in political life. She continued to spend a vast amount of time touring the country, speaking at party meetings and dinners, and on the hustings at election time when her insistence on covering the length and hreadth of the country gave her friends real con-ceru for her health and strength, but she was indefatigable. Those who saw it will have an abiding memory of her telling John Prescott when he tried to intergramme to "Shut up!" and he did.

If this gives the impression of a humourless bluestocking, nothing could be further from the truth. While her wardrobe was obviously of no interest whatsoever to her, she enjoyed her food and the occasional whisky when m London and her wine in France. She had a tremendous sense of fun, to the extent that her fronthench colleagues had more than once to persuade her to leave the chamber with tears of laughter streaming down her cheeks at some particularly ludicrous remark made from the benches opposite or when she was the recipient of one of Roy Jenkins's perceptive and pungent asides. But the great joy in her life was her splendidly uncaredfor cottage near Bergerac where she adjourned each summer and Christmas with her friends and where she especially relished having breakfast in the garden on Christmas morning.

Geoffrey Tordoff

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Beatrice Nancy Seear, sociologist and politician; born 7 August 1913: Reader in Personnel Management, London School of Eco-nomics 1946-78; created 1971 Baroness Seear, Liberal Leader, House of Lords 1984-88, Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader 1988-97; PC 1985; died London 23 April 1997.

Transsexual cannot be registered as father of child

X,Y and Z v United Kingdom; European Court of Human Rights; 22 April 1997

The refusal to allow a femaleto-male transsexual to be registered as the father on the birth certificate of a child born to his partner by artificial insemination by donor was not a violation of the right tn respect family life provided by article 8 of the European Convention

on Human Rights. The European Court of Human Rights ruled by a majority that there had been no violation of article 8 of the Convention, and that it was not necessary to consider the complaint in relation to article 14 of the Convention taken together with article 8.

Article 8 provides:

blic authority with the exercise of public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accor-dance with the law and is necessary in a democratice society in the in-terests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of dis-order or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protec-tion of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 14 provides: The enjoyment of the rights and free-doms set forth in the Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

other status. The applicant X was a 1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. 2. There shall be no interference by a female-to-male transsexual

LAW REPORT 24 April 1997

birth to Z, who had been conceived though artificial insemination by donated sperm X was told before Z's birth

that the Registrar General was of the opinion that, for the purposes of registration, only a hi-ological man could be regarded as a father. Z could, however, lawfully bear X's surname.

The European Court of Human Rights found that article 8 was applicable because de facto family ties linked the three applicants.

Although it had not been suggested that the amendment to the law sought by the applicants would be harmful to Z's

1979. In October 1992 Y gave necessarily be advantageous to them.

the state might justifiably be cautious about changing the law, since amendment might have undesirable or unforeseen ramifications for children such as Z, and implications in other areas of family law.

The law might be open to criticism on the ground of inconsistency if a transsexual could legally be a "father" while still being treated as female for other legal purposes,

such as marriage to a man. The disadvantages suffered by the applicants because of the refusal to recognise X as Z's legai "father" had to be balanced against those general interests.

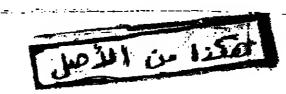
Given the complex scientif-

ic, legal, moral and social issues raised by transsexuality, in re-spect of which there was no generally shared approach among the contracting states. article 8 could not, in the pre-The court considered that sent context, he taken to imply an obligation on the United Kingdom formally to recognise as the father of a child a person who was not the biological

father. The fact that the law of the United Kingdom did not allow special legal recognition of the relationship between X and Z did not, therefore. amount to a failure to respect family life within the meaning of article 8,

Since the complaint under article 14 was matamount to a restatement of that under article 8, and raised no separate issue, it was not necessary to examine it separately.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



Death of ideology is greatly exaggerated

Tory party sycophant would call John Major an original thinker. tactician, maybe, but not a Tory or you would put in the same catage of the stage of Wily tactician, maybe, but not a Tory leader you would put in the same cat-egory as Arthur Balfour or Lord Sal-isbury. Paddy Ashdown, likewise, is not someone who comes across as a conceptualiser. When we wrote, not criti-cally, that the Liberal Democrats were a party with many ideas rather than an ideology, Conrad (Lord) Russell took us to task, claiming lineal descent from John Stuart Mill. If so, the party has descended through various rustic branch-lines: its family resemblance to its famous predecessor is less marked than Lord Russell's to his. Mr Ashdown does not spend much time debating the essence of democratic liberalism or liberal democracy for that matter.

The Labour leader is another matter. Tony Blair is no continental intellectual. We do not breed party leaders with the theoretical clout of, say, the former German social democrat leader Helmut Schmidt or the academic weight of the French socialist Lionel Jospin. Yet before the demands of electioneering took him over, Mr Blair could be spied at seminars convened by the Institute of Public Policy Research and similar thinktanks. Then, the occasional "ism" could be heard tripping off his tongue even if. somewhat too often, it emerged as the vague "communitarianism". But the campaign has in large measure seen the

without a script, doing something extraordinary, in the terms in which this campaign has been conducted till now, which is thinking aloud. What his audiences have been hearing is a kind of public meditation – Prince Hal-like – on the duties of leadership and his rendezvous with history. Taken at face value (too much should not be read into what is could not be read into what is said during these hectic days), his recent remarks suggest Mr Blair has yet more surprises in store for his party, including perhaps its intellectual demise. The gist of Mr Blair's political

thought was captured yesterday in his prediction that "this election will be the last fought on ideology". By "ideology" he meant the old way of dividing right and left on how large a role they accord the state. On one side stood individualists, on the other collectivists; on one. capitalists, on the other socialists.

That such division is anachronistic is an old suggestion. At the end of the 1950s Daniel Bell used the phrase to signal the onset of an era in which everyone accepted the existence of the welfare state. Other writers took up the theme, claiming that modern politics was essentially a technocratic affair in which all the public had to do was decide which party would manage the system of triumphalism and gloom. It was



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idea. Appraise my suitability - he implies - on the basis of my party management skills. Perhaps he has been reading Francis Fukuyama, American author of the cloudy *The End of History*. Fukuyama argued that at the end of the Cold War, a liberal-democratic model of colditions and the conflictions of the co of politics now rules mankind, conflicts within which are essentially trivial. There remain practical problems, to he sure, in economic and social life but these are dully second-order ones, which need to be approached pragmatically. Fukuyama's book was a strange mixture

THIS CROWN OF INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

best. Tony Blair seems attracted by this heavily influenced by Nietzsche (this newspaper is against Nietzsche) but was, in its turn, heavily influential on a rising generation which believes that all is management, nothing is ideology. Support what works; that's it. This, in essence, is what President Clinton was saying in his State of the Union address earlier this year.

No one sensible is against practical solutions or good management. But it is a dangerous leap to think that, therefore, politics in the old sense is dead. However it is labelled, and wherever it is conducted, from ancient Athens to contemporary Seoul, politics

exists because society involves conflict. There is conflict for power, resources and freedom. There is conflict between groups and individuals, some of whom will win and some lose. Politics is a grown-up art because politics recognises this and doesn't shy from it: only in the schmaltzy dreamland of dictators and king-emperors is there no conflict, a harmonious and happily managed people. So long as there are limited resources and complex social organisation, with power centralised and rules imposed, there will he politics.

And the real problem for modern politicians is this: without ideology, without an intellectual template, how do you know which groups should win and which, at least relatively, lose? How do you make sense of a chaos of small managerial dilemmas? Without a compass, how do you know where you are going? Tory nationalists have an ideology. which defends traditional centres of national power against globalisation. They may be wrong-headed but they will be able to know when they are winning. The same went for the old left. But what is the core political focus for the new centre-left, whether it be American Democrats or British New Labour?

We think the key idea is, or ought to be, radicalism, meaning a determination to break down excessive centres of power (which could be in European bureaucracies, trade unions, multinational corporations, media empires or

pension funds) in favour of the small guy. Radical politics would recognise that in the global market there is a natural tendency for power to cluster around fewer and fewer players; and that the proper role for politicians is to stand against that, to constantly shake up and break up in order to protect social diversity and mobility. It may seem an abstract thought. In government, it wouldn't be. We are all for management: but every management nceds a guiding purpose.

Lachrymal Latins

The exam results were posted at the Brussels Academy yesterday, and one member of the Class of '99 has dissolved in tears. Italy, the country that gave us the Roman Empire, Michaelangelo and the cappuccino, has failed to clear the first hurdle for entry to the University of the Euro. The only other country which does not appear on the "pass" list posted by the European Commission is Greece, the school drop-out. They were only mock exams, of course, and there were cries that the teachers had been too soft. But they were a dry run for life-altering tests coming very soon; and on them, the future of the continent may rest.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Hospitals fail to accept the fact of death

Sir; It was with great sadness and depressing familiarity that we read John Hoyland's account of his stepfather's final illness ("Thanks, NHS, for a rotten way to die", 22 April), endured in the context of a health service seemingly illequipped to deal with the complexities of illness in old age.

As health professionals specialising in the care of older people we recognise the failings of a service where measures of "success" are increasingly based ou performance rather than quality, and attention to detail is edipsed by the pressure to "get the job done".

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It is tempting to lay blame at the door of health professionals, managers or even politicians, but to do so would be missing the point. Mr Hoyland's account is more an indictment of our attitudes to ageing, and the inadequacies of the NHS are perhaps a paradigm of the ageism which abounds in society. DR MARTIN VERNON SUSAN JACKSON Newbury Park, Essex

Sir: I would like to endorse John Hoyland's moving article about his stepfather's illness with regard to the total inability of the NHS to acknowledge the fact of death.

An elderly tenant whom we looked after in the final years of his life went into hospital about six weeks ago with bronchial pneumonia. After a few days he contracted an infection and was moved to an isolated ward. After a few days in hospital it was quite clear to us that he was dying. On one occasion we made an inquiry as to his condition. "Oh he's doing

fine, he's sitting up, he's making good progress," said the staff nurse. When we went in to see him later that day we found him, indeed, sitting up, but with all sorts of tubes coming nut of him and an oxygen mask over his face. A few days later we were told, "Oh he's a bit poorly today" as if he had a mild touch of the flu. We found him deathly white and in a coma. He died the

following day.

During this period we were also going through a ludicrous charade with the social services to discuss provision for his care when he came out, Like John Hoyland, we found that nobody in the medical and caring services was prepared to accept that (old) people die. This seems to me a reflection of society's inability as a whole to come to

terms with the fact of death. Until we are able to accept that death is an integral part of life, then we will never satisfactorily be able to deal with many of the problems that life itself throws up. And old people will continue to die painful and humiliating deaths. ROGER LLOYD PACK

London NWS Sir: John Hoyland's article brought back many painful memories of how my late father, who also suffered from Parkinson's disease, was treated by the NHS.

He suffered for 18 years before he died in 1979 and John Hoyland is exactly right when he states that there is no suitable palliative care ontside of the hospice movement.

My father was a good amateur athlete in his youth and served in the RAF in the Second World War, but to the NHS he was no more than a guinea pig for treatments that came too late for him and finally a burden. We found him literally tied to a chair in one hospital because they didn't want

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resources to do anything with him.

In the hospital where he was idmitted for urgent surgery to a strangulated hernia, he was left without medication and food, urine bottles were left by his bedside for hours as he was unable to make enough fuss for anyone to come and remove them. Finally he was discharged home with abscesses on every stitch as a result of which he haemorrhaged and was admitted back into ITU as an emergency. We actually received a written apology for that, but it did not alter the fact that he had suffered needlessly.

He died early one Friday evening in a general ward in the middle of visiting time. It was both an inappropriate and undignified way to die. Since then, I have myself worked in the health service, both in administration and clinical work and have to say that there is no training to speak of in dealing with incurables. The whole focus is on treatment at any cost however

undignified to the patient. As a student diagnostic radiographer I saw elderly. desperately ill patients sent for barium enemas when they had no capacity to retain the barrion. Inevitably their bowels evacuated and left them embarrassed and distressed beyond words. Hospitals can be very intimidating places and it is hard when you are feeling at your lowest ebb to insist on fair treatment

There is a huge difference between assisting someone to die and helping them accept death if that is their only option. Is it too much to ask that we show kindness and tolerance towards those whom we cannot cure? MIS DE CARTMAN Milion Keynes, Buckinghamshire

him to get bed sores by lying in bed. Labour: we won't | Some advice but had neither the time nor privatise NHS

Sir: Your article on the failures of the Tories' Private Finance Initiative in the National Health Service ("No escape from privatisation for NHS", 22 April) rightly sets out what a shambles it has been. Not a single brick has heen laid for a major hospital scheme, despite constant reannouncements of supposed

progress from ministers. But you wrongly suggest that Labour has embraced the privatisation agenda in the NHS.

We haven't.
We do believe it is right and proper to involve the private sector in public/private partnership for the provision of new hospital facilities. But the Tories want to go further, and have openly said that they would welcome the privatisation of clinical services. They are already doing it - at Stonebaven in Scotland and at the Royal Hallamshire in Sheffield. Any such commercial operation of patient care endangers the precious relationship between health professional and patient dedicated to the clinical needs of the patient and no other considerations.

On this issue there is a guif between the two parties. CHRIS SMTTH Shadow Secretary of State for Health The Labour Party

Löndon SE17

on tactics

Sir: I was interested in your reaction to Vanessa Redgrave's decision to vote for me and Bruce -Kent's negative response (letter, 21 April). I have to tell him that Ms Redgrave is just one of a large number of people here who have realised that there is no point in voting Labour as they won't make any difference on the issues they consider important. In her case, these are human rights issues; for others it is investment in education or the health service. In each case, the only real difference is between the old parties on the one hand and

the Liberal Democrats on the other. I had a lot of sympathy for tactical voting campaigns at the last election in seats like nurs. However, GROT's intervention this time is irrelevant. Everyone knows that the Tories are going to lose here and the debate has moved on to who we want in replace them. Voters must choose between honesty, investment in public services and commitment to human rights on the one hand and a lot of vacuous waffle on the other. GARETH HARTWELL Candidate, Brentford and Isleworth Liberal Democrats Isleworth, Middlesex

Sir Tactical voting is back on the agenda for many, like me, for whom the hig priority on 1 May is a change of government and also a significant increase in Lib Dem MPs.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

I am a Liberal Democrat supporter, especially because of their attitude to the environment and education funding, but at the last general election, here in Rugby. Labour came second. A swing in line with the opinion polls could oust nur Tory MP, so long as the two main opposition parties do not carve up the remaining votes too equally between them. So I will vote Labour on 1 May, while informally "paired" with Labour friends in Oxford West, who will vote Liberal Democrat as the best chance of unseating John Patten. I will vote

Lib Dem in the local election. This kind of tactical voting is both a principled and serious response to the desperate need to have a government committed to the whole community and not just the haves and have mores. It is made easier because for many of us the differences between Labour and the Liberal Democrats pale into insignificance when contrasted with either of their differences with the Conservatives. DAVID CHARLES-EDWARDS Rugby, Warwickshire

Sir. Polly Toynbee is correct in asserting that "on the ground each incal party wants to win" ("Britain Decides: The Independent's Guide to the Election") Of course they do. Anyone who's been a candidate has shared that ambition especially given that it's costing you and your family in terms of lost

income, time and stress. However, she is wrong to call the tactical vote a "blunt instrument for change" - given a reliably

informed local constituency electorate there is no reason why switching to the candidate most likely to heat the Tory should not deprive the Conscrvative Party of at least 90 seats. RICHARD DENTON Co-Chair

Get Rid of Them Tactical Vote Campaign London N16

Driven away by noisy shows

protection when noise levels reach a specified level. Yet the public attending places of "entertainment" can be subjected to painful levels of music and amplified speech.
My family and I have left several

Sir: Workers have to be offered ear

cinemas early in the showing of a film because the sound track has been far too loud, and my young daughter was disappointed when the same thing happened when we took her to see two different circuses and a superb (except for the sound) international clown display; even using ear plugs, the noise at these events has been painful and, probably, damaging to

hearing.
Unfortunately one has to part
with one's money before knowing whether a particular venue uses excessively loud amplification and hence has the potential to damage one's health. With studies showing that many teenagers have impaired hearing, why do we exacerbate this problem by permitting dangerous levels of sound in places of public LULIAN SIMILETT-MOSS Southport, Merseyside

Dangers of TV abortion veto

Sir: As someone who is totally committed to a woman's right to abortion, I find the idea that broadcasters can veto the Pro-Life Alliance election broadcast far more offensive than anything the transmission might contain. This veto sets a far-reaching precedent. Do we really want to encourage the ability of the media to decide for the electorate what those standing in the election can and cannot put forward as part of their case?

Those of us who are pro-choice have nothing to fear from the proposed footage anyway. Our case for legal abortion does not rest on whether the procedure is pleasant or unpleasant. Once termination of pregnancy is placed in the context of a choice between compelling a woman to carry to term a child she does not want to have or allowing her to end that pregnancy, the fact that the procedure, like any other operation, does not look nice. becomes unimportant. ELLIE LEE

Pro-Choice Forum Canterbury

Sir: If abortion is a sufficiently decent act to perform, how come it is not a sufficiently decent act to broadcast? Courtesy of (nonfiction) broadcasts, I have seen embalmers working on week-old corpses, seen a man shot in the head, and watched the walking skeletons of those condemned to die by their fellow human beings' greed. Abortion must be a pretty

terrible thing. Dr EMMA FOX Birmingham

Don't plug racism Sir: We represent over 250 union

members in the Export Credit

Guarantee Department on the Islc of Dogs. It is a racially mixed office. Over three years ago, the British National Party had their candidate. Derek Beackon, elected as a councillor for the Isle of Dogs. The increase of racist literature, stickers and graffiti was paralleled by a 200 per cent increase in racist attacks in the area. Some of our members were victims of these attacks and racial abuse. The rest of our black and Asian members feared the journey from the office to the has stop or station until the campaign led by the Anti-Nazi League tn

boot Beackon out was successful in May 1994. Now with the general election a week away, our members are horrified at the prospect of the British National Party broadcasting to millions across the country this Friday. John Tyndall, the BNP leader, is standing in the Poplar/Canning Town constituency - and aircady more racist stickers have returned to the Isle of Dogs.

The broadcasters can help to stop them - pull the plug on Friday. PAT CARMODY CPSA Branch Assistant Secretary WENDY LAVINGTON Trades Union Side Equal Opportunities Officer London E14

Blair's secret

Sir: On your front page (23 April) you ask "Why is Tony Blair aping Norman Tebbit" on Europe.

The answer is simple and clear. not least to Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson. Mr Blair wants to win the election and he knows he can do so only by aping Norman Tebbit. Lord TEBBIT House of Lords London SW1

A serpent in our cool green Eden

Everyone knows that consumer society is destroying the planet. but the politicians realise there are no votes in sacrificing our lifestyles. Or at least not yet, says Richard D North

ice fella, no good. Agricul-ture, probahly": thus a cyn-ical politician's judgement on some dull colleague and his ministerial prospects in Harley Granville-Barker's 1926 Waste, which is currently reminding Old Vic audiences that nothing much changes in politics. But some things do. Food production has turned out to match traffic as an issue on which people's doubts about modern ways of living worry them. Even so, Granville-Barker's words still apply and he might have added, "Environment. probably", if he wanted to suggest another "B-list" ministry.

None the less, secretaries of state for the envi-

ronment have been at least middleweights, because the hrief includes local government, which always requires a bit of watching. And increasingly, the core issue - the nuisances, large and small, caused by a greedy society - have demanded and even attracted the boss's attention. The latest, John Gummer, has stolen a march which none of his mainstream political opponents have dared to match. It is the sort of move which demonstrates how hard it is for opposition parties to make the higgest new issue of the century into the stuff of elections.

Mr Gummer has repeatedly said that it is not the water companies' fault that we are short of water and it is certainly not the fault of the Tories. Climate change, he says, has caused the current dryness, unparalleled in recent times.

The Tories need to demonstrate that when they sold the purveyors of one of the three great natural resources (the others being air and soil). it was the prelude - as the late Nicholas Ridley said it would be - to a period of strict regulation and high investment. Any very recent failines need to be acts of God, lest they be portrayed as deficiencies of administration.

But Mr Gummer's was an important political remark. As a statement of whether we face environmental catastrophe because of our gaseous emissions, it is a little ahead of the scientific consensus. Still, Mr Gummer might be right and is in any case sending the right, slightly alarmed, signals. Global warming, like so many other issues in the environment, is a question of risk, and therefore of taking a gamble. His remarks on the matter are the mirrorimage of the silly optimism and lack of caution with which, as Agriculture Minister, he made the first tranche of ministerial remarks about BSE.

But of course, even in an unseasonal drought, greening politics goes further than fire-fighting. The parties and the media are getting the

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message that the environment is not a first-order issue," says Stephen Tindale, of the middle-of-the-road Green Alliance, which aims to put the the issue at the centre of politics. It is by now the standard mantra, and goes on to point out that public perception is a peculiar animal: polling insists, for instance, that the environment scores more highly than Europe as a concern of the electorate, though they both come way behind the economy, health and education. But that analysis also reveals it as the issue which won't hark, and which unites people within and between parties as one seen to be more moral than political, just as Europe divides people as a matter more emotional than empirical,

It is likely that there are two sources of one's unease about the environment. The first is that our present carelessness may hackfire and hurt us, or our children. We might, for instance, want to clean up rivers, or limit some pesticides on these, light green, grounds. By and large, we have done those things which obviously screamed out for attention, and the Tories can claim that they

6 Brundtland said sustainable development's hurdle was democracy 9

have mostly matched the wider European and Western expectation in such matters. No other party seriously believes the electorate is hungry for big further changes, say in management of the chemical industry, and no other party thinks it has a distinctly different political approach to offer. Unlike most social issues, this is not one that resolves itself into a matter of how much to soak the rich to help the disadvantaged. Most environmental improvements would impinge on rich and poor about equally, perhaps on the poor more.

The related second issue is far harder to manage. Judaeo-Christianity is often denounced for But it has far more signally reminded us that selfdenial and frugality are the source of private spirituality and social well-being. Modern affluence has linked with environmental concern and this far older tradition to produce a post-materialism which lurks in many a breast. Hardly a new phenomenon: when H G Wells castigated the "Utopian unworldliness of an irresponsible rich man of the shareholding type," he was thinking of the proto-greens. William Morris and John Ruskin. It is tempting to hang the same label on

several modern high-profile greens. But Wells was at least a hit wrong: Morris was a rich man who got richer by purveying a medieval design ethic and wrapping the whole in heartfelt anti-materialism. Laura Ashley, Terence Conran, Anita Roddick, Jonathon Por-Greenpeace's Peter Melchett and Friends of the Earth's Charles Secrett would all have to be bundled together to make anything like a new Morris, and even so would have difficulty matching the passion and talent, let alone the profitability, of the Victorian model. But humbug remains the higgest charge against green leaders and most of their followers too,

"I'm interested in ideas," says a tyro politician in Waste. Then why go into politics?" asks a worldly-wise MP. The piece picks over the perennial matter of whether morality has any place in democracy. It meshes well with Stephen Tindale's reminder that Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian socialist and official midwife to the idea of sustainable development, once said that her off-

spring's biggest hurdle was to survive democracy. Shouldn't greens, like church leaders, press their Utopianism from a position of integrity unsullied by power-seeking? This is the oldest issue in the politicisation of greenery and the value of Jonathon Portitt is that he has renounced conventional green politics because it is too unworldly, whilst retaining the loftiness which used to attach to difficult hishops. His brand of pained arrogance may irritate many of In his new role as one of the three leaders of the Forum for the Fnture be is one of several gurufigures who are winning business round to greenery. Business is, one suspects, more than happy to have them inside the tent. Anything including being lectured, beats confrontation.

However, even if much greenery-even practical greenery - is vaguely absurd, who is to say that it is not the seed of something which will hlossom later? In his fantasy on the socialist and Utopian medieval priest John Ball, Morris writes: "I pondered how men fight and lose the battle, and the thing they fight for comes about in spite of their defeat, and when it comes it turns out not to be what they meant, and other menhave to fight for what they meant under another name." Men do not know the harm they do, even when they seek to do good. But equally, the good

they do may not become obvious for years. So there is hope for the Green Party even as it speaks a deal of what conventionally sounds ilke nonsense. Its spokespeople are certainly effortless guardians of the idealist ethic. But in their custodianship of the process which led to the recent Road Traffic Reduction Act and the Home Energy Conservation Act, they can alsoclaim to have been important in the enactment of the only two legislative measures which

consumption is something to be encouraged. The Greens' total vote grew well in all the elections after the first in which they stood, in October 1974. Chris Rose, their national election agent, rather charmingly points out that this is not because the party became more popular, but because it has until this year fielded more candidates each time: "Our share of the vote in constituencies where we stand has remained about the same." Except in the election for the scored over a fifth of the vote in half a dozen constituencies and nearly 15 per cent of the total, its share has not risen above 1.5 per cent (as against a green vote in Germany which rose to

6 Porritt has renounced

7.4 per cent in the Bundestag election of 1994, giving them 49 seats under proportional

The Lib-Dems are probably the most naturally green of the mainstream British parties: composed of mildly affluent urban womers whose politics are a cross between a crusade and a hobby, this was bound to be the case. The Tories have already overseen a deliberate increase in the taxing of petrol, but the Lib-Dems propose to go further, and in exchange to reduce road tax on smaller engines. That is hrave because it risks upsetting the party's natural constituency. It appeals only to the better nature of the high-mileage Lib-Dem

with the big lump under the bonnet.

Still, it is hard to match John Gummer's state-

tail our preferred consumption patterns. That is post-materialism by the back door, it is also quite brave: Conservatives naturally enough like firmness best when it applies to the lower orders, not to their own. Perhaps, as a Christian, Mr Gummer is drawn to an area in which private morality must overflow into policy. When Peter Lilley says that his job is not to tax big pay cheques, he then usefully adds that their recipients are under a large rivate obligation to redistribute their wealth. It is, after all, a bar to the entry to heaven. Green virtue cannot in quite the same way be private.

And where is Labour? In Michael Meacher they have a shadow environmental protection minister who seems amable and serious. It looked a little unwise in him publicly to espouse in mid-campaign a particular environmental cause (that which suggests organo-phosphates are involved in the transmission of BSE) just as he stands a serious chance of receiving the full weight of official evidence on the matter and to be taking on the kind of responsibilities that make banning this or that look rather more complicated than it appears to outsiders. It seems right, on the other hand, to propose, as he does, modestly stricter targets for

controlling greenhouse gases.

Mr Meacher seems like the kind of man who would rather read or write a good book than huy a speedboat. But asked whether New Labour was a good child of the spiritual socialism of Morris, who saw that "one must cast away riches and attain wealth", he sighed and smiled mildly. "1 have a lot of sympathy with people who want peace and quiet and the opportunity for tran-quillity, but they'll always be a minority. Winning

elections is a pretty hard-headed business."
It's true: in this century the Western world has convulsed itself to both deny and defend the right in people to be grossly vulgar if they like.



green politics as unworldly while acting like a bishop 🤊

impose a duty on any authority (actually, only Still, it is hard to match John Gummer's state-local authorities) to assume that reduced ments on traffic, housing and out-of-town

At last! Shakespeare's long-lost St George Yesterday was St George's Day. It was also Shakespeare's hirthday. But have you ever thought how odd it was that these two great

English occasions should be celebrated on the same day? And that there must be some connection hetween them, however unlikely?

Well, there is Experts have recently uncovered the remains of a hitherto unknown Shakespeare play which is on the very subject of St George and the Dragon. It is called, as you might expect, The

Two Georges of Smyrna.

Would you like to see an extract? You wouldn't?

Well, too bad, because here it is. The scene is a back street of Smyrna, some time between the invention of Christianity and the modern day. Enter George, a knight errant, with his attendant

George: We have journeyed many a mile together Before we came to this fair town named Smyrna. And now we seek a place to lay our weary heads, Which is not quite so easy as it sounds, For every door on which we knock for help Has got a sign saying: "Dragons not welcome here". Why do they like you not? Dragon: I cannot tell.

We dragons are a harmless lot, God wot. We puff and hiow and make a lot of noise, And cause a little fire from time to time. Why, I myself once burnt a haystack down While laughing at a joke. My gusty hreath Being full of sparks did catch a corner of the hay And moments later there was nothing left. But every dragon has a tale like this. Thereafter are we careful with our breath And never cause another fire again. Not so with humankind, whose carelessness



Miles Kington

Leaves every town ablaze from time to time. George: Yes, yes, I know. We humans are to blame For everything that happens in this world, Yet somehow shift the hlame to dragons. This is the constant burden of your plaint. Dragon: And it is true, as you have oft confessed! George: You may be right, but that is not the point. Dragon: What is the point, oh holy one-to-be. Oh martyr on the make, oh future saint? George: The point is seeking lodgings for the night And that would be a simple thing to find Did I not have a dragon at my side! Dragon: Oh, now I start to catch your general drift! I cramp your style, is what you mean to say! I, who have saved your life so often in the past, Am now a little surplus to your wantsl Upon the road I am your trusty friend But here in town a mere embarrassment!

George: Now, look, old dragon friend...

Dragon: No, say no more! I'll take your hint and make myself right scarce. I have have a cousin here in Smyrna, a dragon like me. With whom I may perchance find room to stay.

I'll search him out and bother you no more. Tomorrow you can huy a horse and then You'll look just like a normal knight again. George: Nay, fair dragon, take not offence at me! We have endured so many dangers, me and thee, That being bound together in a common plight, We should not be parted by a trifling fight. Dragon: Ye cannot soften me with all this thyme. Perhaps we'll meet again some other time. The dragon tosses his head proudly and goes off without a second glance. George scratches his head

George: Alas, I do repent me of my hasty tongue.
Which yet again has far outrun my thought.
But night draws on and I have still no bed. And nowhere in Smyrna to lay my weary head. Yet hold! Have I not a long-lost cousin Whose name is also George, here in this town? I think I have! Him will I search for now! Enter a second dragon, who starts on sceing George and then hails him 2nd Dragon: Why, master, are you here again so

George: What mean you, fool? I've ne'er been 2nd Dragon: Oh, master, that's a sorry tale to tell...

Well, it's quite clear what's going to happen, isn't it? George and the dragon have both got identical courses in Smyrna and there's going to be a lot of incredibly unfunny mistaken identity before everything is cleared up. So I think we'll quietly lose the manuscript again.

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the commentators

This is no time to go sour on New Labour

ere we go, the terminal week of this terrible campaign. Each day that passes sees the growing disaffection of Labour supporters complaining that the leadership is tilting ever rightwards. The groundswell of protest is silent, muttered, muted for fear of failure on I May. But the danger is that Labour supporters are flagging. Many say they will not vote and others may upt for the Liberal Democrats in places where it is tactically insane. Alot of people are now very angry with Blair, especially over Europe - and they are solid committed New Labour believers, not just the smattering of old socialist warhorses or Granita dilettantes. Day by day residual affection is seeping away and goodwill is turning sour. It can't end too soon.

"Ok, so I'm voting Labour, but I can't bear to listen to them any more." "If I hear Blair talking about himself one more time, I'll vote Lib Dem. Me. me, trust me is all he ever says and the more he says it, the less I trust him". "It's Clinton all over again."

In a trade union office plastered with Vote Labour posters, I came across one featuring a beaming Blair and the slogan "Britain deserves better", but some malcontent had inked in the words "than him", together with a Hitler moustache. The

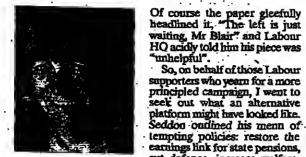
have nowhere else to go, but apathy and anger are a real danger: the election is by no means won. Blair on Europe, Blair on law and order, Blair on taxation - yes, Labour supporters are being sorely tried. Yet now, on the brink of victory, is no time for all this anget, anger and apathy. Just close your eyes and think of five more Tory years.

Then ask yourself if really, truly, the cam-paign could have been different? Could we have had hooesty and principle? Probably not. After all, it is not just the politicians who he, hut the voters lie too. They tell earnest Rowntree Foundation funded researchers that yes of course they would vote for higher taxes to pay for health and education. They tell pollsters health and education are at the very top of their list of priorities, yet all the evidence is that whatever they say to nice people with clipboards, they will not vote for anyone who hints at extra taxes. For all we know, they may at this moment be lying to pollsters in droves about

their true voting intentions. So the parties lie back to them. Both parties are signed up to spending plans that are simply impossible. The independent Institute of Fiscal Studies throws its hands up in despair at the gaping great holes in the budget both swear they will stick to. Labour posters haldly state "NHS waiting lists will be shorter" on the basis of no extra funding at all. Tory posters lie back just as vigorously. The voters protest sanctimoniously about all this mendacity hut they are no better themselves: we probably do get the politics we deserve. Now is not the time for a risky experiment in

high-minded leadership.

What kind of more uplifting campaign might Labour have fought instead? We all have our wish lists – hut would anything else work? The grumbling behind the scenes has rarely erupted in public but one who hroke cover last week was Mark Seddon, the young editor of Tribune. He wrote an ill-judged call for more Meanwhile, remember the election is by no



Polly Toynbee

course, tax the rich more. Fine the last four elections. There The party may be good arguments for many of those policies, but if they make you unelectable, forwill spring get it. Those of us who broke to life on with the Labour Party in 1981 to form the SDP left Labour out of 2 May. The despair at the failure of the party to recognise how fast society was changing beneath their feet. Finally, we have a Labour party that understands the model army will break meaning of the past 18 years, even if those changes are step and

Mark Seddon echoes the real politics unhappy sentiments of many Labour supporters when he says, will resume "People would respect Blair if he stood up for what he believed in. the words "than him", together

with a Hitler moustache. The
atives are restive.

Labour strategists reckon their own people

enough "best" in them? The working class

So, on behalf of those Labour

cut defence, increase welfare,

renationalise rail and water, pay

public sector workers their due,

borrow more, not worry over-much about inflation, and, of

but that is the agenda that lost

masses no longer exist. Most people in work are middle class home-owners who are 33 per cent richer than 15 years ago, nurtured on the politics of selfishness. What if nowadays the natural majority is comfortable and selfish?
"Then we might as well all give up," Seddon says. But that is no answer.

Some words of comfort to the Labour apathists - all is not as hlack as it seems. It does not take much investigative journalism to prod beneath the party's iron electoral carapace to find that something is atill alive underneath it. Whisper it softly, the truth that dare not speak it's name - Labour will spring to life surprisingly on 2 May. Blair's New Model Army that marches so firmly in ranks now will nd real the election is over, Millbank iron-fists will no longer hold sway.

Take the 'What's Left?' network, for example. It is a loose grouping describing itself as "New Left within New Labour", and it consists of people who will mainly have jobs under Blair: Robin Cook, John Prescott, Clare Short, Jean Causton, Peter Hain, Angela Eagle and some 30 other key players have all attended meetings. Those are not reds under Blair's bed, they are an integral part of the bed he lies on. Deep-throat conversations with some of them reveal an absolute certainty that things will have to be different: the spending plans for instance, are just not sustainable. "More money has to be there by the first real hudget in the autumn." Is this sedition? "No. We strongly support New Labour but that doesn't mean we will be blindly obedient." Feel better?

Personally, I believe in Tony Blair. If he succeeds, we should forgive whatever he says now in order to get elected: elections take place in the nether regions of politicians' souls. Come 2 May, we shall see the calibre of a man who says he has a mission to transform society.

extraordinary encounter the other day. I was radio show, in which a group of Radio 4 listeners had gathered to talk about the most prized books in their collections, under the eye of an eminent antiquarian dealer. On my left sat a pleasant lady from Leices called Leonie, who had brought along a first editioo of Entertaining Mr Sloane, the first published work by the Sixties playwright Joe Orton. Was there anything special

on the inside page "To Mum and Dad, From Joe", and was therefore a rare sighting of a presentation copy from the notably informal and anti-"But the Joe of the inscription could be any old Joe," I reasoned with razor-

about it? Why yes, she

pointed out, it was inscribed

like logic. "Are you sure it's Joe Orton's handwriting? "Yes I am," she said. Why? "Because I'm his sister," she said shortly.
A curious kind of

fastidiousness overtakes you at moments like this. Your desire to interrogate any family connection of such a brilliant writer and wayward spirit is mitigated by a reluctance to seem merely nosey about a man who was murdered by his lover in

So it was only later that I ventured to ask: why was the inscription ("From Joe") so bloodless? Why not "Love, Joe"? Because, she said, they were an unhappy family. Their father, William, was weak and put-upon, "and our mother," said Leonie, "was awful to us".

That much we knew already, in fact, from John Lahr's biography of Orton, Prick Up Your Ears, which would vent her frustration and dislike on her family. But then Leonie began to laugh, a weird, indulgeot cackle as if talking about a naughty child.



Talking dirty: bold and beautiful Ms Wolf, the talk of Gay Byrne's 'The Late Late Show

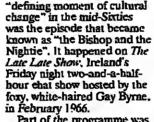
"She used to make us porridge in the morning, it came steaming hot out of this saucepan. I remember sitting there in front of the howl saying 'I don't want it', as children will, and my mother came past and shoved my head into it." At what age? "I must have been about five", she said with the same crazy

laugh. "I said to me sister Marilyn the other day, 'D'you think we were abused as children?' She said, 'Don't be so daft, of course we were." What happened to Marilyn? "Once my mother

banged her head against the mangle in the kitchen and knocked her out." Picking my way through Leonie's eldritch chuckling, I said, "You mean she grabhed her daughter by the head and...?"

"No, no," said Leonie,
"She had this levely loog hair. My mother put it through the mangle." Until she was unconscious? She nodded. Her eyes were wild. She seemed hugely amused, as by some terrible scene of black humour. Forty-five years after the event, it was still as clear to her as last night's television: a faceful of boiling porridge, a sister tortured by her mother - and a whole

ccording to Mary Kenny, in Goodbye to Catholic Ireland. published next week, one



Part of the programme was devoted to a marital quiz, on the lines of the American Mr and Mrs game show, a husband and wife were

questioned separately about their own and their spouse's likes, dislikes, hobbies, views and so on. A Mrs Eileen Fox was asked what colour nightdress she'd worn on her wedding night. She said she couldn't remember - mayhe she hadn't worn one at all. Laughter and applause from the audience; but all hell followed from the Catholic

Church. The Bishop of Clonfert condemned the show from the pulpit of Loughrea Cathedral. The papers went bananas. Educational committees and sports anthorities denounced The Late Late Show as "dirty". The Irish Catholic magazine called Mrs Fox's sweet little confession "a public gioo of pearoon relations between married

Ms Kenny tells it most amusingly, and sees it as the start of a media revolution that would "remove all modesty from discussion about physical matters".

To prove her point, she need look no further than last Friday's The Late Late Show (still hosted by the indefatigable Mr Byrne) where Naomi Wolf, the feminist author and dreamboat dilated on her new book Promiscuities. Friends in Duhlin report that the city's population spent the weekend discussing little else than Ms Wolf's chitoris which came up, so to speak, a dozen times in

Emboldened by Gay Byrne's anything-goes insouciance, she asked "Can I mention blow-jobs?" and talked breezily about how good you had to be at fellatio



when she was a teenager, while the older gentlemen of the RTE audience sat in silent

A priest in the audience asked a question about Catholic youth and promiscuity; in return, Mr Byrne asked him if he had anything to contribute to the cartier discussion, "l. er. haven't really had much experiences of clitorises," said the priest sheepishly. What, you can't help wondering. would the Bishop of Clonfert have made of that?

New York that thousands of citizens face having their lives disrupted in the most inconvenient way. Chaos stares them in the face. Horror grips the souls of Manhattan's rich apartmentdwellers as they face the unimaginable prospect that the city's doormen may go on strike.

No really, it's true. Discussions are still under way to stop 30,000 "huilding workers" from downing their Big Macs and copies of Rustler magazine aod working to rule. They are striking for more money for themselves, and for a lower starting salary for new workers, which are modest

What seems hilarious to a British ear is the level of panie among residents who will suddenly have to do things eveo rich flat-owners in London take for granted: sorting the mail, delivering it to your own door, calling o taxi, changing a lightbulb, taking out refuse sacks, allowing estate agents in and most of all, a frightfully complicated manoeuvre called "watching the front

door" This, as British visitors to New York will know, means that, should you dare enter

an apartment block and head for the lifts without telling him whom you're calling on, a fat trucker in a uniform will start velling at you. The only things they ever say are "OK, I wanna see some I D." and tinto the telephone) "Mrs Rheinholt." There's a guy down here says he knows va...

They are a spectacularly otiose breed, but also spectacularly out of date in a modern city. I mean, how else can you think of their proposed action than as a mass walkout of butlers and



New York doorman: how will the rich cope if they strike?

Unhappy families: the wedding of Leonie, sister of the radical policies on the leader page of the right : means over - and what is the point of getting wing Evening Standard, of all places to choose. your disillusion in first? playwright Joe Orton, in 1964 Polling: it's broke, but how do we fix it?

George the voters," read the desperate front page of yesterday's Daily Telegraph, trying to explain away a rise in Labour's lead to 21 points in its own Gallup Poll on the same day that ICM reported Labour's lead shrinking to five points in The Guardian. But it isn't the shaking and quacking of a volatile electorate that you hear in the polls - not. certainly, for two polls with near identical dates for fieldwork. The noise is rather the clatter and clang of an old banger of a sample survey technique that, after breaking down in the last general election, should never have

been allowed out without an MOT. Last time the polls crashed so hard that it was surprising that any pollsters got out alive. Polls had been wrong in three post-war elections. But here was something else. They didn't just pick the wrong party. They missed, on average, by nine points, equivalent to more than double the 4.3 per cent swing that Labour needs in this election

to win its biggest victory since 1945.
Its gasket blown, its tyres flat, the clapped-out opinion poli needed an upgraded replacement, featuring long, cross-examining questionnaires, panels for tracking opinion over time and experiments to find out which issues and personalities really do flip voting intentions. What did the public get instead? Minor repairs passed off

as a major (werhaul. The most learned-sounding repair was the phoniest: a revision of the quota sample, which told interviewers how many, say, skilled, hine-collar workers to interview but left them to pick and choose respondents within the quota itself. Since quotas left too much discretion, finger-wagged The Economist, tighter samples were needed - so that within a sample of blue-collar workers, there should also be quotas for, say, the numbers of them who lived in council flats.

Gallinp was applauded by The Economist for replacing quotas last January with the classical purprick random sample that nowadays can be done cheaply by telephone. But why did the Labour hias in quota samples only show up in 1992? Quotas actually replaced the more expensive random samples in the 1970s. And where was the evidence that the bias was the result of quotas? It wasn't to be found. The Market Research Society took two years to admit the conclusion of its own post-mortem: hardly a quar-ter of the error in the 1992 election to predict. Studies started showing could be put down to slovenly quotas.

Even more unconvincing was the beguiling reassurance that the polls had only been caught short by a lastminute swing - quite possibly caused by a sudden increase in the numbers of people telling pollsters they were optimistic about the economy and their wage packets. But that explana-tion couldn't be right. At the last election couldn't be retired managing tion optimists in the polls never flip. That, no doubt, is why "don't that happens to be ICM's own The writer is the retired managing tion optimists in the point never is the retired management of the interest optimists. But this time known scores are so rarely published, patented invention. Unfortunately, director of a market research firm.

Inadequate methods and unreliable respondents are challenging pollsters, says Conrad Jameson the sharply contradictory sampling technique to get rid of a optimists are a thumping majority—findings will be seen as evihuilt-in Labour bias. The culprit was and Labour is still in front. And why supposed to be the cheap-and-cheerful should polls get causht out by a last. and Labour is still in front. And why should polls get caught out by a last-minute swing? The survey that the polls' reputation stand or fall by is held on the eve of the election, when voters are practically inside the voting

> So just why were polls off last time by a whopping nine points? All of us, lay and professional alike, know the swer. Poll respondents were lying. It was bad enough in the Seventies and Eighties. That's when voters

6 Downright lying is something new and typical of the Nineties >

flipped ont of their class-bound goldfish bowls that, in happier days, made voters slithering back and forth between parties or swimming away with a "don't know" or "refuse to answer". The changelings and copouts are still with us - with heavy "don't know" scores still flashing a danger warning. Most polls show them at 20 to 30 per cent. And pollsters are don't knows, too, in that they don't know which way the "don't knows" will

But downright lying is something the panel data that ICM uses for new and typical of the Nineties - that is why new dark clouds of doubt hang the panel data that ICM uses for adjusting its polling scores can't be scrutinised, only ICM's impressive over pollsters' performance. Lying is so new that, pretend as they might, they don't know how to deal with it. Volatility should, in theory, cancel out in eve-of-election polls. More difficult to deal with are the evasions of Essex Man who likes to pretend he lives in Hampstead. How are polisters to figure out how many are lying, and which way?

For feisty Bob Worcester of MORI the problem doesn't exist. The pollster's Panglossian assumption stays intact: people mean what they say and say what they mean. Ask well-honed questions in a proper sample, he argues, and, lo, you come out with MORI's impressive forecast of the South Wirral landslide, off only by two points for the Tories and only one point for Labour.

But do voters lie less at by-elec-tions? And what explains MORI's own fiasco in the 1992 election? Or scores that have popped up in several recent surveys asking people how they voted last time, which show Labour won the last election? Or, even funnier, the exit polis at the last election showing a majority favouring Labour's fatal policy of increasing taxes for more welfare services?

Listen to Nick Sparrow of ICM, for whom the L-factor exists, all right, hut that's no bother. It can be whisked away by a statistical lie-detector test

adjusting its polling scores can't be scrutinised, only ICM's impressive redictions – when ICM asked people how they voted last time it came out with scores jully close to the actual 1992 results.

But who says that success in rediction means success in prediction as well? And why, if the lie detector test is so important, does it change the scores published in The Guardian yesterday by unly a single percentage point with Labour rising to a six-point rather than a five-point lead after adjustments:

The truth is that pollsters cannot possibly know how to adjust for lying assuming, of course, that adjustment is needed - until after another general election or two, when new statistical and questionnaire techniques have been tested.

So what are we poor punters supposed to do with our hand-wringing doubts amid shrill claim and counterclaim? Tony Simpson of the Harris poll gives the kindly answer to the tune of a belly laugh: live with them - and don't ber. With that sound advice - plus a hint from Aristotle about knowing the exactitude each type of inquiry allows - we can still make out heads from tails, say, by making allowances ourselves for how many of the "don't knows", for example, are crypto-Tories. Look at the record. We've as good a chance of getting it right as the polisters.





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CWS threatens legal action as Regan returns boxes of confidential information to the High Court

Co-op to press for hefty damages

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

The Co-operative Wholesale Society went on the offensive againsi Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust vesterday, saying it would press for "substantial damages" against the 31-year-old entre-preneur and his "fellow con-

The move came after Mr Regan returned seven boxes of confidential CWS information to the High Court. The material had been obtained with the help of Allan Green, the former retailing controller of the CWS who was suspended last week. The CWS said Mr Regan was then using the information to prepare to launch an audacious £1.5hn break-up bid for the 130-year-old movement.

The boxes contained a breatbtaking array of information including minutes of CWS board meetings, computer disks, management accounts, policy documents, information about directors and the name and address of every CWS member.

In his sworn affidavits Mr Regan admitted that the confidential material was copied widely within the financial community and that Hambros, his financial advisers, retained copies. Stolen computer disks were downloaded on to several computers in the City. The CWS said the contents were still on the bard disks of computers at Lloyds Bank Registrars and at Galileo, the offshoot of Lan-A CWS spokesman said:

ica Trust being used for the hid. The affidavits filed in court by Andrew Regan tell an extraordinary story. Over many Green as "a common thief". It members, the regional soci-

The document which authorised

the controversial £2.4m payment

Andrew Regan to a Cayr

listes middleman was witnessed by

a leading City public relations ad-

director of Financial Dynamics

and part of the Regan advisory

team on the Co-op bid, appears

as a witness on the payment

slip together with that of Mr

Regan himself. At the time of

the payment in January 1995 Mr

Bick was a director of Bucha-

nan Communications, the ad-

visers to Hobson, Mr Regan's

food manufacturing company.

made to Ronald Zimet, a mys-

terious businessman, in return

for assistance in negotiating an

The £2.4m payment was

viser, it emerged yesterday The name of David Bick, a

Nigel Cope

months, Allan Greeo was systematically stealing documents to order and it appears that he was encouraged to do that by Mr Regan and David Lyons [Mr Regan's right-hand man]. [They] then used that for their

In a string of abusive letters sent to Mr Regan, his fellow di-rectors and his advisers, the CWS lambasts the young eotrepreneur's tactics and his

A letter from the CWS chief executive, Graham Melmoth, said: "Mr Green stole an enormous quantity of documents -

also asks when Hambros was . shown the confidential information and why it did not question bow they was obtained. Meanwhile the CWS denied "Did any of you people ask Mr that it was still operating a sur-Regan: where did these documeots come from and how

were they obtained? If not why

In an attempt to diffuse the situation, David Lyons sent a letter to every member of the CWS board trying to call off the legal wrangle. It said: "I am writing to ask you whether, in pref-erence to contloued legal proceedings, it would be in he-bet interests of members to re-

∠ Allan Green stole documents to order and it appears he was encouraged ... by Mr Regan 9

they fill seven large boxes ... Could you please tell us what reward or inducements were offered to Allan Green?"

In his affidavit, Mr Green admits to meeting Mr Regan six of seven times between September last year and this April:
"I now unreservedly accept that I exceeded my authority and was in breach of my obligations as an employee," he said. Mr Regan said that material was copied and sent back by courier to Mr Green's bome.

The CWS also despatched letters to Mr Regan's financial and legal advisers questioning their integrity. The letter to Lord Hambro, chairman of Hambros Bank describes Mr

ceive details of the proposal and

allow them to reach a decision."

This was treated to a con-

temptuous response from Lennox Pyfe, the CWS chairman He said: "You mention the legal proceedings. Let me make the position clear. We intend to press on with those proceedings and to secure a judgment for substantial damages against you and your fellow conspira-

should be returned to you unopened and unread." The CWS maintains that its. board is unanimous in its opposition to Mr Regan's breakup bid. It says that its corporate

eties, will voice their support for the CWS at its annual meeting next mooth.

Meanwhile the CWS denied veillance operation on Mr Regan and his advisers. The Regan team claims they are still being followed and and being filmed. The CWS says it called off the security firm Control Risks oo Friday.

However, it has emerged that Control Risks was not the first firm approached. The CWS went to rival firm Kroll Assoclates first but found that they were already looking ioto Regan's affairs for another party. It is understood that Kroll had been hired by Allied Irish Banks, which Mr Regan had lined up to buy the Co-op Bank if his break up bid was suc-

Nomura International has emerged as Mr Regan's main backer and is prepared to fully underwrite £1.2bn of debt fioance for his bid. This would see Co-op members receive a cash payment of £1,000 each. The Co-op Union would receive £10m to give to "good

... One source close to the bid camp said: "The Co-op is now in play. If Regan does not get, someone else will."

The CWS and the Regan camp are due in court tomortors ... As for your proposal, I row where Justice Lightman will have given instructions that it decide whether or not the injunction banning the use of confidential information should be lifted. The CWS says it will ask the

court to make the interim in-

City PR man witnessed £2.4m payment to Zimet



Hobson's financial advisers,

Swiss Bank Corporation, said it

did not "clear" the payment to

extension to the supply agree-

ment with the Co-op in January

1995 but not the £2.4m pay-

ment. When it was told two

months later it resigned as

Mr Zimet is said to have ap-

proached Mr Regan in early

1995 saying be could re-nego-tiate the deal for £5m. He said

that if he arranged it for less he would keep the difference. The deal was completed for £2.85m.

The CWS recently wrote to

Mr Regan asking for details on Mr Zimet's role and why it was

worth £2.4m. Mr Regan replied saying that Mr Zimet had been involved in the negotiations "for

Berkeley fined £70,000 over

Hobson's financial adviser.

cai

Retail sales up again as exports dive

Diane Coyle and Chris Godsmark

The two-speed economic ures yesterday showing buoyant With the Bank of England urging an increase in ioterest rates to cool the economy despite the strong pound, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) yesterday pleaded for higher taxes instead. Otherwise, it warned, Britain would face a further rise in the value of the pound and a phinge in ex-

port confidence. Andrew Buxton, the chairman of the CBI's economie afpolicy should be tightened sooner rather than later", and preferably through higher taxes. The problem one risks with interest rates is that it will make the pound streogthen even more," he said.

The CBI's comments came as the minutes of the meeting he-tween Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George last month showed that the Governor of the Bank of England called once again for a quarter point rise in the cost of borrowing. If the move was delayed, "more substantial tightening would eventually be-come unavoidable." Mr George

Although the Chancellor said be and Mr George agreed to differ by a quarter point, most analysts expect whoever has the job after the election to increase interest rates.

This expectation was re-Inforced by figures for retail sales last month and by the home market aspects of the CBI's quarterly survey of industrial trends.

The volume of sales on the high street rose by 11,3 per cent. and in the latest three months their annual growth rate has picked up to 4,4 per cent. Food sales are growing far more slowly than the rest. Annual growth in sales of noo-food with clothing and footwear

some weeks". He was employed

ceed in negotiating an extension

[to the supply contract] without

Mr. Melmoth wrote back

pouring scorn oo this explana-

tion, saying that Mr Zimet had

spent just three days on the ne-gotiates and had been paid

letter to Mr Regan yesterday saying: "I find it extraordinary

that you did not appear to ask Mr Zimet how be was able to

overcome the CWS resistance

to your proposed terms. Were

you not curious? Didn't you ask him what effective oew strategy

or tactic or argument be bad

employed in order to obtain the CWS agreement?"

compliance requirements.

with compliance issues.

technical assistance and deal

Mr Melmoth sent a second

£2.4m for his trouble.

fore "usefully use Mr Zimet".

"because Hobson had not suc-

especially strong in March. This is before the tax cuts, the windfall gains and the election. There is every reason to expect it to pick up further," said Ciarán Barr, an economist at

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. The CBI survey showed that home orders, although below expectations, remained at their highest rate for two years. Companies predicted their home order books would grow over the next four months at the briskest rate since October 1988.

Despite joh losses in the latest quarter, manufacturers said they would increase employment in the next four months for the first time since 1989.

But the strong pound, which bas risen by 25 per cent against the German mark in six months, became the biggest constraint on export optimism, for the first time since the depths of the recession in 1981. Export optimism was at a six-year low.

The strong pound also means that manufacturers' unit costs are expected to fall at the fastest rate since the CBI began its survey.

Some City analysts saw the survey as evidence that there is no inflationary danger. But others said it was misleading to focus on manufacturing.

ggerhe:

MF cheer

Molins reveals hole in accounts

The chartered accountants KPMG are at the centre of a second auditing nightmare - this time at Medius, the tobacco maclunery company. Michael Orc. chairman of Molins, stunned shareholders at vesterday's anmul meeting with recelations of a petential multi-million pound hole in its accounts after identifying "certain financial ir-regularities" at Langston Corporation, its US corrugated board machinery subsidiary. Mr Orr told the meeting:

Preliminary indications suggest that the cumulative overstatement of profits could be in the region of \$12m (£7.4m)."

after anticipated tax relief appeared to relate to the 1996 accounts. This compared with the corrugated board divisioo's opcrating profits last year of £3.7m and overall Molins group pretax profits of £24.9m. Two senior American execu-

Wholesale Society.

was perfectly in order: "I was a

tives, Leo Maynes, president, and Walt Belville, chief financial officer, bave been sacked. Mr Orr has sent in two replacements from the UK - Tony Stroud, group international director of sales, as Langston's new gener-al manager, and Bart Van Egmond as finance director.

Molins has also called in Price Waterhouse to work with KPMG on an immediate investigation. He said that after tax relief the Asked by a shareholder if he tigure could be reduced to thought KPMG were blame-

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\$7.2m. Of this about \$1.8m worthy", Mr Orr said: "The very fact that we have asked Price Waterhouse to work alongside KPMG speaks for itself. We as directors of the company must take the blame. Perhaps the an-ditors share in that."

witness signatory to the extension key issue on the Co-op hid as with Mr Regan.

KPMG is already at the centre of a row at National Westminster over the £90m the bank lost in its interest rate options department. An investigation into the NatWest affair by Coop-ers & Lybrand, chartered accountants, and Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, will exam-

Key issue: David Bick (left) witnessed the payment by Andrew Regan (centre). Hobson's

David Wigglesworth (right) expressed concerns about the deal Bick photograph: PR Week

extension of a contract between to the supply agreement." How the CWS says its representatives

Hobson and the Co-operative ever, he denied he had in any way say they know nothing of Mr

Mr Bick said his involvement I am not a cheque signatory." ternational. They say all nego-

authorised it. "How can I when Zimet or his company Trellis In-

The payment is becoming a tiations were conducted directly

ine the role of audhors KPMG. The US losses at Molins sent the shares 97.5p lower to 645p, wiping £35m off the company's stock market value. They have fallen nearly 400p from last

 Problems at Langston firs surfaced 10 days after release of annual accounts in the middle of last month.

"We were alerted by a phone call from a former employee of Langston who had recently re-signed from the company," Mr On revealed. "At first the problem appeared to be a small one and in any case the allegations

Mr Maynes, who had been run-ning the US operation since 1987, and his finance director, Mr Belville, were suspended. Both lost their jobs on Monday. Mr Orr insisted that there was

were unproven."

But by the end of March both

no suggestion of cash being taken out of the husiness but said

overstating profits would have affected staff bonuses.

pensions mis-selling review Nic Cicutti members following criticisms by mediately rectified those areas Personal Finance Editor MPs and consumer groups over in which we were at fault." When the PIA was formed in 1994, independent financial ad-

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial regulator, signalled yesterday that it had lost patience over the slow pace of its pensions mis-selling review by fining one of its members more than £70,000 for a series of compliance failures.

be in Israel, has been instructed

by his lawyers not to comment.

payment to Mr Zimet emerged.

It is understood that the non-

executive directors of Hobson

expressed concern about the

offshore deal. The two non-

executives on the board were

David Wigglesworth, the non-

executive chairman, and Martin

Bunting, chairman of Bluebird

Toys and former chairman of Inn

Hobson's auditors, KPMG, have already admitted that they

had expressed concerns about

the payment KPMG said it only

agreed to sign off Hobson's 1995

accounts following assurances

from Mr Regan and fellow di-

rector. David Lyons, that the

Business pubs group.

Berkeley Independent Advisers was also ordered to pay £15,000 in costs after admitting the offences. The fine against Berkeley, a network of indepeodent financial advisers (IFAs), is the largest to be levied

its alleged failures to ensure swift compensation to victims of the pensioo transfer scandal. visers feared they might oot be equipped to deal with tougher

A PIA spokesman said the fine followed a visit to the firm, based in Coventry, by the regulator's pensions review team in IFA networks which provide May 1996. The team found that technical assistance and deal Berkeley bad failed to issue firms in its network with adequate instructions oo how to identify pension cases that occided to be reviewed. It also failed to have proper procedures in place to monitor its advisers' conduct of the pensions review.

by the PIA against its members.

It signals a new-found toughness by the PIA against its have held our hands up and im-



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COMMENT

Those who believe the

peopled only by greedy

spivs will draw much

comfort for their view

from this bid. If this

were any old house

being burgled by the

City, then perhaps

nobody would take

that much notice.

But it is not:

it is the Co-op

City to be a place

draws towards its final denouement, the City needs to be asking itself some hard and searching questions. No apology is offered for returning, scratched record like, to this extraordinary saga or for the high morale tone being adopted in these columns, for we are looking, we believe, at a very significant City scandal bere.

With the approach of a new Labour government, filled with reforming and high ethical zeal, the City needs this episode like a hole in the head. It is oot just that Mr Regan's assault on the CWS is an act of unrestrained greed. That, perhaps, is what we must expect from the modern City. It is much worse than this, for it now transpire that the assault also involves unauthorised plunder of commercial secrets and confidences on an unprecedented scale. Seven boxes of the stuff have over the mouths been smuggled out of the CWS and delivered to order to Mr Regan and his henchmen.

This might amount to everyday practice for Mr Regan and his fellow conspirators, but can it really be par for the course at Hambros, Schroders, Travers Smith Braithwaite, Allen and Overy, Nomura, Clifford Chance and all the other top drawer City firms involved in this takeover? They might vainly protest now that the information supplied by Allan Green and others has oot been of much use to them in their disreputable endeavour, but they lapped it up at the time.

others that the information was provided woluntarily, and that legal advice was taken on it all, provide any more than the lamest possible of excuses. Blinded by the fees on offer, said to amount to £33m to Hambros alone in the event of success, these are organisations which have failed to ask the right questions either of themselves or

Did they know where the documents were coming from? And if they did, were they aware that the man supplying them had also sold a CWS contract to Mr Regan for £2.85m which Mr Regan himself believed to be worth £5m, the difference being pocketed by a shadowy offshore middleman?

Those that believe the City to be a place peopled only by greedy spivs will draw comfort for their view from this bid. If this were any old house being bargled by the City, theo perhaps nobody would take that much notice. But it is not, it is the Coop. It is the people of the North, people oo below average incomes, old Labour territory, hon-est, decent people with little understanding of offshore tax havens and high rolling financiers, people to whom the language of cost cutting, asset management, return on capital and shareholder value is as alien as

a foreign tongue.

If it is not careful, the City will find uself punished for its act of piracy, and as usual, it will only have itself to blame. As for the bid

tomorrow, but it hard to see what Mr Regan can hope to salvage from the wreckage now.

Fudge on euro contradicted by IMF

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The boffins of Brussels have plainly gone through one of those exercises made so easy by modern computer technology in arriving at yesterday's Economic Forecasts for members of the European Union. First, you choose the answer you want to get out of your equations - it was a deficit of three per cent of GDP on the nose in this case. Then you work backwards to find the profile for GDP growth that will deliver this pleasing round

Oh, but oot in the case of Italy. It suffered the ignominy of being one of the two countries (the other was Greece) the Commission said will not get its government defici below that mystical three per cent of GDP figure this year. No wonder the Italians were furious at being left out when the Eurocrats handed round the fudge. And no wonder the financial markets just laughed at the Commission figures.

The International Monetary Fund had a better stab at forecasting EU budget deficits. It said nine rather than 15 countries are likely to meet the budget deficit criterion. The six that will probably not make it are the itself, we can expect another day of mod fling- EU's five biggest economies - Germany,

France, Italy, the UK and Spain - plus Greece. The numbers were far more credible as economic forecasts go, but they do oot mean that the single currency will go ahead without any of these six.

In fact, the two sets of forecasts were delivering the same message. It was that mem-bership of EMU will be a political decision, subject to minimum economic performance constraints. There will be a broad membership, but Italy will be excluded initially.

Italy has achieved an incredible economic and political transformation in its eagernes to join the club, but it has not yet gone far enough to gain entry. Nothing it can do in the space of a year is likely to change that picture or the mind of the other members.

As Flemming Larsen, the IMF's chief forecaster, said wheo be presented the figures yesterday, the small discrepancies between one set of forecasts and another do not signal an economic problem, but rather

Utilities met their Waterloo overseas

Duming a utility is such a dreadfully dull Njob, though not one without its financial compensations, as the relentless tide of boardroom excesses among the privatised water and electricity companies has taught us. How much more fun it is to get away from the drea-ry world of electricity pools, distribution price behaviour.

reviews and K factors and do a spot of business instead in Brazil, or Thailand or perhaps even Pakistan.

Fun these overseas adventures may be, quite apart from clocking up the Air miles. But as for being a profitable use of shareholders funds, much less in the interests of their captive customer bases back home, forget it.

The track record of our utility companies when it comes to foreign endeavour is one of near universal and unmitigated disaster. The latest company to come a cropper is the National Grid, which has had the rug pulled rather abruptly from under its feet in Pakistan. The £400m contract it thought it had from the former government of Benazir Bhutto to build a power transmission network turns out not to be worth the paper it is written on,

The collapse of the project follows in a grand tradition. Thames Water and United Utilities have both had their fingers expensively burnt overseas and Anglian Water bas run into a maze of problems in Brazil, an episode about which a great deal more has yet to be told.

If the managers who run our utilities really want to try their band at being proper busi-nessmen operating in competitive markets, then they should find other employers to experiment with. It is the excess profits that the utilities have reaped since privatisation which has bankrolled these hairbrained sorties into overseas markets. And if Labour's windfall tax has one thing in its favour, it is that it will surely put a stop to such profligate

Bosses at loggerheads over single currency

Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark

Britain's two leading business organisations came to blows yesterday over the single currency amid reports that the Confederation of British Industry was set to back European economic and mooctary union...

Lord Young, president of the Institute of Directors and a forgotten the way the CBI came out against all our trade union reforms in the 1980s because they wanted an easy time. It could be they are looking to support the single currency because it is the easy way out, be-cause the pound is a problem."

If the CBI endorsed EMU it would be a "step in the wrong distance itself from reports that direction" because the IoD did it was poised to come out in supnot believe Britain should con-

the foreseeable future. Tim Melville-Ross, the loD's on a private internal consultation

director-general, followed up Lord Young's criticisms, saying EMU would be damaging for the country and its members. Although it had not canvassed members recently, its last polls showed 70 per cent opposed to EMU. "It is becoming a big company versus small company debate," be added.

A number of large companies including Unilever, whose chairman Niall Fitzgerald beads minister, said: "I have never, the CBI's Europe committee, are strongly pro-EMU.

But Mr Melville-Ross said: "Big companies should look beyond their own corporate interests to the wider economy. It is a narrow-minded view when big companies say a single currency is good for Europe." The CBI, however, sought to

distance itself from reports that port of Britain joining the sintemplate a single currency for gle European currency.
the foreseeable future. It confirmed it had embarked



preparing to canvass industry on the single currency

exercise which would lead to an official view on the euro by the summer. Three options were being put to members at council meetings in a briefing document written largely by Adair Thrner, director-general, and Kate Barker, chief economist.

However, the CBI insisted one of the options was for the UK to stay out of monetary unioo "for the foreseeable future". The other two options are thought to be to join in the first wave of countries in 1999 and to wait on the sidelines before making a decision.

There are 13 regional CBI councils, though a spokesman said the decision would be made through "consultatioo" and would not be put to a vote.

Andrew Buxton, bead of the CBI's economic committee, refused to be drawn on which way the consultation process would go. The CB1 position is to keep the option to join open while expressing oo opinion in principle either way. Tve oo way of pre-judging the con-sultation process," Mr Buxton

IoD Conference, page 24

Europe's £50bn-a-year fraudsters 'threaten economic prosperity'

Katherine Butler Brussels

Europe's fraod gangs are bauling in up to £50bn each year and are threatening the EU's economic prosperity, an investiga-tion sponsored by the European Commission has found.

Sophisticated computerbased frauds perpetrated against insurance companies, banks, investment firms and public agencies rival the narcotics trade in scale, according

to the report. It follows a year-long investigation by accountants and management consultants Deloitte and Touche.

The study identifies 10 of the most worrying forms of hitech crimes, including mobile growing at the rate of 40 per cent a year. Credit card and other banking frauds, counterfeiting of branded goods and pharma- a certain profile, according to assets and criminal proceeds or

ceuticals, fraudulent investment schemes, smuggling of cigarettes and alcobol to evade customs duties, fraudulent bankruptcy and insurance cheating are all cited as highly profitable areas for corrupt individuals or organised criminal

octworks to exploit.

Cloning of mobile phones, where the identity of one phone is programmed into another at the expense of the original owner, is costing the UK alone almost £100m a year, the report says. The insurance industry, meanwhile, is losing at least £6bn a year and the report suggests that around half of all commercial fire claims in the

UK may involve arson. There is evidence to suggest that in many cases proceeds phone cloning, thought to be from these illegal claims are transferred abroad. Private cor-

the evidence gathered by Deloitte and Touche. They frequently have a dominant chief executive, a secretive management culture and fail to maintain systems for keeping track of data and documentation.

Differences in the laws of the EU member states and the absence of any effective judicial co-operation are blamed in the report for allowing transfrontier fraud to thrive.

There is clear evidence determined fraudsters deliberately and cynically manipulate and take advantage of the different regulatory and monitoring regimes across the European Union... This problem must be tackled on an international basis," said Will

Inglis of Deloitte and Touche. Brussels will use the findings porations most susceptible to anti-crime legislation, for ex-losses from fraud tend to bave ample on the seizure of illegal

the penalties attaching to fraud. which vary widely.

In some jurisdictions there is not even a legal definition of fraud. The European Commission bas no direct powers to combat fraud-related activities but would gain the right to initiate legislation if proposals to bring judicial co-operation under the scope of the EU treaty are agreed at the Amsterdam summit in June.

The report suggests that com-mon EU standards on banking secrecy and the anonymous ownership of corporations as well as the criminalisation of all the components of fraudulent activities are required.

Lax controls by any one EU member state adversely affects others, it stresses.

Luxembourg, for example, point for pirated CDs which are then distributed throughout the Community.

IMF cheery on world economy but warns against EMU delays

Diane Coyle and Sarah Helm

trasts between the fortunes of monetary union would take, different countries are become "It is critical to get through this ing starker, according to the period promptly by bringing International Monetary Fund the project back to term with International Monetary Fund . (IMF). In a new set of economic forecasts yesterday it upgraded predictions for growth in the Anglo-Saxon economies and downgraded the outlook for continental Europe. The IMF said none of the big

five EU countries would meet the single currency target of a 3 per cent of GDP government But it warned that there must

be no delay to ecocomic monetary union because the uncertainty was undermining growth. Yet, in sharp contrast, the Eu-

ropeao Commission produced its rosiest forecasts for econumic and monetary union yesterday, predicting that 13 countries would meet the key deficit criterion to qualify for the launch as growth picked up.

Brushing off renewed accu-sations that its predictions are massaged, the Commission predicted Germany, France, Portugal, Spain and Austria would meet the deficit ceiling dead-on. All five would hit the 3 per cent figure, which must be attained this year by countries hoping to join at the launch on

1 January 1999. It was "no coincidence" that It was "no coincidence" that the figure should be precisely 3 per cent in so many cases, said Yves Thibault de Silguy, the Economics Commissioner. Attaining that target had been the countries objective since the Manufact. The Com-Maastricht Treaty. The Commission used the occasion to counter predictions the single currency might be delayed. The IMF's semi-annual

World Economic Outlook was

more measured. It said the legislation and benefit systems, run-up to EMU was taking its toll on the European econo-Prospects for the world mies, because of budget cuts and economy are rosy but the con-uncertainty about the shape in the agreed time frame," the report said.

report said.

It put government deficits in 1997 above the critical 3 per cent of GDP level in Prance, Germany, Italy, the UK, Spain and Greece, although the report said progress on deficit reduction had been impressive. It added that but for weak growth, all but four EU members would bave met the target

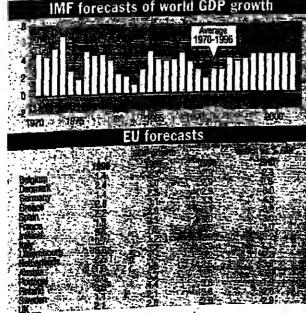
The IMF trimmed its 1997 forecasts for growth in Germany and Italy. Nowhere on the Contiment does it see a chance of significant falls in unemployment this year, calling for more ex-tensive reforms of employment

Canada. Although warning of the risk of a sharp correction on Wall Street, the report said: "There are few signs of the ten-sions and imbalances that foreshadow significant downtures in the business cycle."

The risk of higher inflation in the UK points to the need for a tougher fiscal policy and an in-crease in interest rates, the Fund's economists say. They also reckon a further moderate rise in US interest rates will be On the other hand, the IMF said there might be a need for

interest rates on the Continent to fall. Reductions in recent years should have been more rapid in response to the economic downturn.

Despite the differences between the EU and the authoritative IMF figures, Mr de Silgny insisted: There has been



oo tinkering or trading." Sus picion has centred particularly on Germany in view of a series of gloomy economic predictions. It has become increasingly clear in recent weeks that the rest of the EU may come under pressure to turn a blind eye if Germany narrowly overshoots

the deficit ceiling.
This was all but confirmed yesterday by Commission officials. They insisted differences were simply caused by "rounding up or rounding down of the figures".

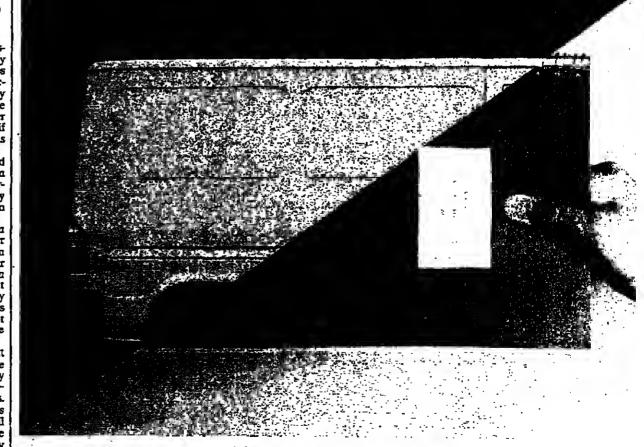
Predictions that the Italian

deficit would stand at 3.2 per cent this year and an even higher 3.9 per cent next year caused storms of protest in Rome. The Italian government oow realises that it is unlikely to be given the same leeway as Germany, on the grounds that its budget-cutting measures are less "sustainable".

Mr de Silguy did oot rule out the chance Italy could still make the grade, but be stressed any one-off measures must be supplemented by more lasting cuts. The Commission figures showed that most countries will continue to over-sboot the Maastricht debt criteria - many seriously. However, it is already clear that the Commission favours more flexibility on the debt criterion, stating only that countries should be moving to-

wards the 60 per cent ceiling.
Its rosy view of the next two years was based oo a series of favourable economic assessments, including a prediction EU-wide growth will continue to rise, reaching 2.4 per ceot in 1997 and 2.8 per cent in 1998. Elsewhere in its report, the IMF called on Japan to speed up deregulation of its economy. It trimmed its prediction for Japan's GDP growth this year, although expecting a pick-up in

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Bank of Scotland steady as a rock

rock-steady in its performance through the UK's boom, bust and subsequent recovery. The bank, probably Scotland's biggest, bas eschewed the excursions into investment banking, insurance underwriting and US banking which have brought mixed resolts for rivals. Instead it bas used its limited presence south of the border to cherry-pick the best business there, while making limited forays into An-

tipodean banking.

Last year proved another vintage one for the bank, although the picture is muddled by acquisitions and disposals. The 22 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £664m in the 12 months to February is more like 27 per cent when the effects of deals are stripped out, including the first full year of BankWest. the Western Australia bank acquired

Bank West was one of the few shadows to darken another strong set of figures. The disappointing earnings of A\$95m (£45.2m) last year. A\$5m below the prospectus forecast, were blamed on "unprecedented" pressure in home loans, which has seen interest margins more than baive to 1.7 per cent. Peter Burt, chief executive, warned yesterday the bank had further to go. But effort is being put into cutting costs there, where the cost-income ratio is now 8 percentage points above the parent bank. There was also a note tember, when net assets were valued of caution surrounding Countrywide, the former New Zealand building society owned by BoS, where intense

competition continues to hit margins. Bot the group continues to power ahead in its bome market, with little help from lower bad debt provisions. which fell just 1 per cent to £175m. Profits of £399m from the clearing bank represented an underlying rise of 29 per cent on the back of strong lending figures: mortgages were up 14 per cent, while credit cards showed a 17 per cent rise. With nearly two-thirds of its business coming from England, the bank remains in the market for a building

society, but not at current prices.

Meanwhile, its lack of branches in
England bas put it at the forefront of "virtual" banking. The latest manifes-tation, the banking link-up with J Sainsbury, is storming ahead. It has signed up 100,000 customers after just eight weeks, when, as insiders at the bank gleefully point out, it took Direct Line, owned by arch-rivals the Royal Bank of Scotland, eight years and tens of millions of pounds in advertising to get 500,000 customers. The bank reckons the business, just one of 300 link-ups with outside organisations, could be profitable in 18 months.

The sharp deceleration in the fall in bad debt provisions and a drop in interest margins suggests the banking cy-cle is about to turn. But BoS should be well geared to any consumer boom around the corner, while its innate cau-

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tion should allow it to weather any at £16.4m. The properties alone have downturn that follows.

Profits are expected to rise to £725m this year, putting the shares, down 0.5p at 3338.5p, on a forward multiple of 10.

Bargain discovery for Enterprise

name yesterday by snapping up rival pub chain Discovery Inns for £46m in cash and raising £33m through a three-for-eight rights issue at 196p a share to fund further acquisitions during the summer. The deal looks cheap, given that Discovery's advisers valued the company at £55m, or 14 times historic earnings, when it was on the point of floating last December. It missed the boat and its

venture backers are now selling ont.
Enterprise is acquiring 277 pubs,
mainly in Wales, the West Midlands and the West Country, and a business that just been valued at £47.8m.

Enterprise will integrate the estate into its portfolio of 872 pubs, close 30 to 40 of the least viable, and convert most of the 45 managed pubs back into long-lease tenancies.

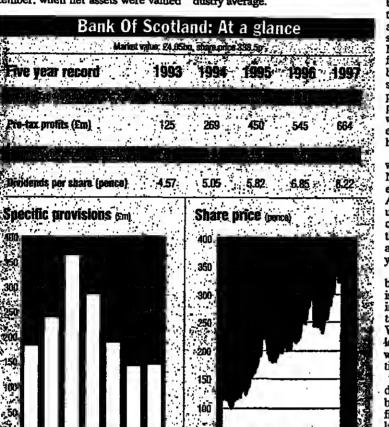
The chief executive, Ted Tuppen, claims this is more effective than ownership for pubs turning over less than £10,000 a week.

Meanwhile, Enterprise has renegotiated Discovery's supply agreement Interprise Inns lived up to its with Whitbread, which will result in more Whitbread beers being sold in Enterprise pubs and bring a wider range of national and regional beers into the Discovery estate.

Merger costs of £2m in the current

year will buy annual savings in excess of £1m from next year, so the deal should be earnings enhancing in

The acquisition came as Enterprise announced a 74 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.2m in the six months to 29 March. Most of the growth came from the acquisition of the John Labatt estate of 413 pubs for £62m last June, but like-for-like income grew 8 per cent, appreciably ahead of the in-dustry average.



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Several more deals are under consideration, but the acquisition of surplus Pubmaster pubs in South-east England, where Enterprise is weakest, would make greatest sense.

At 242.5p, up 0.5p, the shares stand on a forward price-earnings ratio of 11, falling to 9, assuming profits rise to £15m this year and £21m next. An interesting punt in a currently fashion-

Drought warning hits Hozelock

Hozelock was forced yesterday to issue a statement to reassure investors about its prospects given the precipitate fall in its share price this year. The near straight-line drop from 488p in February to a recent low of 377.5p was prompted by growing fears of water shortages after the driest two years in the UK since the 18th century. As the UK's dominant manufacturer of garden hoses, with around 70 per cent of the market, the company has been inundated with calls from in-vestors worried about the possible effect of hosepipe bans and other restrictions on water use.

Yesterday it moved to soothe nerves by pointing out that restrictions had yet to be enforced anywhere, apart from a sprinkler ban covering 825,000 con-sumers in the Southern Water region. More to the point, it said that profits for the first six months to March would be over £3m. Even though that represents a significant fall on the £3.33m reported last year and includes a £300,000 profit on the sale of the group's old warehouse, it was in line with market

expectations, sending the shares 45.5p higher to 425.5p by the close.

David Codling, the chief executive who steered the group to flotation in November 1993, said spring bad come early for Hozelock, with an "excellent" April and strong demand for its products right across Europe. Such is the confidence of Mr Codling and his board that their bullishness spreads out as far as the prospects for the company's full

year to September.
The fall in first-half figures has been well flagged by Hozelock, which is seeing more sales and profits pushed into the summer months by the big retailers' just-in-time stocking strategy. Williams de Broe, the stockbrokers, are looking for full-year profits of £10.9m, which puts the shares on a forward mul-

The threat clearly remains that the dry spell will eventually cause hosepipe bans, or that the summer weather fizzles out half-way through, also like last year. Still worth holding, with growth to come in Europe and from new businesses.

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National Grid to sue Pakistan over cancelled contract

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

National Grid yesterday became the latest privarised utility to suffer an embarrassing setback to its overseas ambitions, revealing that a project to build, own and operate a £400m power transmission network in Pakistan bad been unexpectedly cancelled by the country's new

The Grid, which runs the trunk power transmission net-work in England and Wales, said it was suing the Pakistan govern-ment for at least \$21m (£13m), after it refused to extend a letter of support guaranteeing the project. The letter expired on 31 March, before the Grid's con-sortium had completed moves to finance the venture and sign contracts.

Like other utility companies the Grid had apparently been the victim of overseas politics. The contract was awarded two years ago by the government of Benszir Bhutto's People's Party. Late last year Mrs Bhutto was

ousted after charges of mass corruption were made against her administration and was replaced as prime minster by Nawaz Sharif.

The legal claim is for compensation to cover the first stages of arranging the project including paying expenses of contractors and developers. The Grid said its share of the claim was for \$2.4m for the last financial year.

A Grid spokesman yesterday put a brave face on the news. He said: "The door isn't closed completely. We hope we can reach an amicable solution to this." Privately, though, the company is thought to have accepted its chances of winning business in Pakistan are "dead and buried".

Though the total sums in-volved are small in relation to the Grid's earnings, the news means a potentially lucrative opportunity for the group to use its expertise to expand abroad has been lost. The Grid's other foreign projects include plan-ning a transmission system in

Argentina, along with activities in India and the Philippines. The Pakistan project was to build a 1,400km cable from the

northern capital, Lahore, to Jam Shoru in the south. Work was to be carried out by Balfour Beatty with equipment sup-plied by Reyrolle, a subsidiary of Rolls-Royce. The Grid had claimed it would complete twothirds of the work by December 1997, though the timetable had already slipped behind schedule. The wave of utility privatisa-

tion in the fast growing eco-nomies of Asia and Latin America have attracted many UK utilities, with mixed success. Earlier this month Anglian Water said it would have to set aside £15m to cover losses on foreign contracts, including Brazil where the group is embroiled in legal action. Unex-pected problems to a sewerage project in Thailand bave cost United Utilities £83m, while Thames Water last year pulled out of non-regulated contracting operations at a cost of £95m. Grid shares fell 1p to 215.5p.

EC forces Anglo to cut 27.5% stake in Lonrho

Magnus Grimond

Anglo American Corporation, the South African mining giant, said yesterday it was ready to pursue several options after receiving confirmation that the European Commission was forcing it to cut its stake in Lonrho from 27.5 per cent to less than 10 per cent.

The decision, the first time and the fact that the Russian the European body has ordered the disposal of shares as a condition of clearing a deal between main groupings, was made as a result of fears that the stake would allow Anglo to

dominate the platinum market.
It follows the blocking a year ago of a merger deal between Lourho's platinum business and

that of Gencor, another South African mining group, by European competition commissioner Karel Van Miert.

The Commission said yesterday the latest link-up would bave resulted in Anglo and Lonrho controlling the world's platinum output. The companies market

shares, their low-cost reserves

producer's market position is expected to decrease in the future would lead to a combined Anglo-Lonrho having an estimated world market share for platinum production in excess of 60 per cent in a few years' time," it said.

Anglo said it was "very disappointed" at the decision.

"However, we have two years in which to divest this stake, a good relationship with Lonrho and a number of options to consider, so we are confident of n satisfactory outcome," Julian Ogilvic Thompson, the Anglo

chairman, said yesterday.

The bulk of the Anglo holding in Lourho was acquired in November after the South African group picked up an 18.4 per cent stake from Dieter Bock, the mining to motor distribution conglomerate's former chairman. One observer suggested that other South African groops, such as the black-con-trolled JCI or Gold Fields of Sooth Africa, might be interested in the stake to be sold under the EC ruling.

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BT managers on strike in central London

The union representing British Telecom managers claimed a three-The union representing British Telecom managers claimed a three-day strike starting yesterday in central London had been "90 per cent supported" by members. The Society of Telecom Executives said of 820 network managers and computer software engineers in five buildings, most had decided not to come into work. However, BT said only 318 had taken part. "We're disappointed in the action but it will have no impact on customers," said a company spokeswoman. The STE said: "The target is not the customer. It's the company." The union is unhappy at pay increases. tomer. It's the company." The union is unhappy at pay increases which it says amount to as little as 0.5 per cent for some managers.

RECs chailenged over competition date

The 12 regional electricity companies (RECs) and two Scottish power businesses were yesterday challenged by the independent industry consumers' committees to give a public assurance that they would meet the 1 April 1998 deadline to implement domestic competition. Yvonne Constance from the chairmen's group of committees said: "With less than a year to go, the electricity companies must now be in a position to gauge accurately whether they will deliver on time. We expect only definite answers to these straightforward questions."

Siemens' overseas orders rise 11%.

Siemens, the German electrical engineering giant, yesterday revealed an 11 per cent rise in world-wide orders in the half-year to the end of March, to DM53.9tn (£19.3tn). The group said growth had mainly come from its expanding business based outside Germany, where orders surged 20 per cent to DM35.7bn. It means the overseas parts of Siemens have overtaken the German husiness and the second of the second nesses in importance in terms of orders. Sales on a global basis rose to DM28.2bn. Profits after tax were unchanged at DM1.08bn.

Mine closure hits Waverley shares

Waverley Mining's shares dropped 15p to 39.5p on news that it had appointed a liquidator at its Monktonhall colliery after it was decided that flooding at its coal mine was more severe than anticipated. The closure affects 300 jobs at Monktonhall, in which Waverley has invested around £23m in equity and loans. Waverley said the loss of production and the likely cost of removing the water made a reopening of the mine no longer financially viable.

Strong pound to dent Eurodis results

Eurodis Electron warned second-half results would fall well short of forecasts. It blamed the strength of the pound and high operational gearing. The company said most of the market growth for 1997, totalling 5 per cent, would be in the second half, which was the first half of its next financial year. Shares fell 37p to 133.5p.

Scruttons chief resigns on profits warning

Scruttons warned pre-tax interim results would be "very sub-stantially below" last year's figures. Its shares plunged from 330p to 260p. It blamed lower-than-expected sailings in its freight ferry services after a vessel was withdrawn in an accident. Angus Fraser, chief executive, has resigned from the board. Max Gladwyn, who becomes executive chairman, is to assume his responsibilities.

Company Results					
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £ .	EP8	Dividend	
Andrews Sylve Grp (F)	53.5m (37.0m)	7.9m (4.67m)	33.8p (19.2p)	10p (3p)	
dank of Scottant (F)	- (-)	664nt (545m)	31.6p (25.6p)	6.220 (6.850)	
James Seattle (F)	98.8m (90.3m)	7.6m (5.9m)	12.4p (9.1p)	7.75p (6.85p)	
Bontatis (F)	97.3m (86.0m)	3.7an (1.2m)	7.49p (1.74p)	2.78p (2.22p)	
Anglo Lrist Back (I)	- (·)	. k13,7m (k11,2m	(4.23p (3.44p)	1.65p	
Enterprise inna (I)	23.6m (12.4m)	6.3m (3.5m)	10.7р (7р)	. 25p (2.25p)	
TJ Hinghes (F)	63.0m (50.9m)	1.82m (0.92m)	6.14p (3.2p)	2-92p (2.65p)	
Hustleigh Technology (F)	92.9m (91.9m)	11.8m (12.9m)	9.98p)	2.93p (2.57p)	
PEA Exrepean Tear (F)	4.68m (0.79m)	2.77m (0.48m)	0.44p (0.34p)	0.05ρ	
Santield (F)	9.62m (18.1m)	0.18m (-3.8m)	0.3p (-5.5p)	• (-)	
Whitecress Steam (P)	3,54m (2,22m)	-0.09m (-0.29m)	- {-}	-(4	

ASB seeks more risk disclosure

Roger Trapp

Companies should disclose far more information about derivatives, such as swaps, forward contracts and options, and other financial instruments, the Accounting Standards Board says in proposals to be published today.

Though the board points out that past problems in this area have not been "accounting disasters", it is concerned about the extent to which directors are thinking about risk management.
While the 1985 Companies
Act and certain standards al-

ready require some disclosure. the board does not feel there is sufficient focus on the main risks involved. In particular, it is worried that derivatives are often not recognised in balance sheets because they have been acquired for nil or minimal cost yet can change in value quickly and so expose compa-

nies to large profits or losses.
It believes that the proposals will help accounts users gain a more complete picture of companies' performance by giving them better information about

proposals, contained in Financial 🗳 Reporting Exposure Draft 13, seek to bring Britain into line with policies developed in the US and elsewhere.

The second secon

-

The proposals, which it is hoped will become a standard by the end of the year, allow for different levels of disclosure depending on a company's activities and the relative importance and complexity of transactions involving financial instruments. The board bas also respond-

ed to comments on the discussion paper published last year by recommending that companics that are operating in fields such as commodities not be required to meet full disclosure requirements if that would entail 4 passing on commercially sensitive information.

It has also delayed issuing proposals on the other issue covered by last year's consultation document - measurement and hedge accounting issues - on the grounds that they would require far-reaching changes to cur-rent practice and therefore need to be more fully examined and debated.

the "risk profile".

In addition to bringing together and adding to existing requirements and best practice, the

A&L shareholders get 533.7p at auction

The 640,000 shareholders who voted to sell their Alliance & The smallest bid was 10,000 Leicester shares by auction without waiting for the start of trading this week will each trading this week will each trading the service of trading this week will each trading the service of trading trading the service of trading tradin receive 533.7p a share free of dealing costs, a windfall of £1,334.25 each for their hold
545p, but still 21p below the Clifford German.

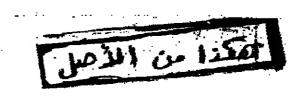
The exact price they will receive was decided yesterday after averaging the prices received at the three auctions arranged by brokers Cazenove,

The third auction of 52.3 million shares on Thesday night raised an average price of 528p

In the market the shares ings of 250 free shares, writes closing price on Monday, the first day of trading, when the The cheques will be sent out shares touched a peak of 576p. for settlement next Monday. In addition to the 52.3 million shares from the auction, only 4 million shares changed hands

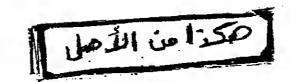
yesterday.
The A&L windfalls have raised bopes of even higger bonauzas when Halifax and Norwich Union float this summer. Almost 8 million Halifax a share, compared with 522p last
Friday and 552p on Monday.
There were 71 successful bids

There were 71 successful bids at the final auction, the lowest bers are in line for £1,410.



Data Bank

Share spotlight



market report / shares

Shares elect to continue longest bull run in four years FISE 100 4387.7 +41.6 four years. Blissfully ignoring

the gunfire of the election and happy to draw inspiration from a robust Wall Street display, Footsie has moved ahead for seven consecutive trading days reaching 4,387.7 points with a 41.6 gain.

The unexpectedly strong display has lifted the index to its highest since blue chips took fright last month when John Major announced the dash to the polls.
. In the main the election has

been a crushing bore for the stock market although the sudden narrowing of Labour's lead in one of the opinion polls may have produced a little enthusiasm among private

New York has been the real spur. The overnight performance by the Dow Jones Average, its second-biggest gain, put shares in a cheerfully

Equities have enjoyed their receptive mood when trading longest built run for more than started and they made further progress despite a mixed New

mained the most busily traded share as the final Cazenove erage price of 533.7p for the members who elected to sell through the Alliance system. The price, at one time was 556p; it closed at 545p, a 12p gain. BZW issued an Alliance covered warrant giving the right to buy at 557p in Octo-

ber next year. The warrant costs 82.75p.

Centrica, the distribution arm of the old British Gas, was actively traded, attracting a recorded 47 million turnover with one 10 million-deal going through; the price held at

58.25p.
Imperial Chemical Industries, first-quarter figures to-day, put on 16p to 720.5p with SBC Warburg, according to



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

Générale Strauss Timbuli sug-

gested the shares should be

chinery maker, was stubbed

nents group, skidded 37p to 133.5p following another prof-

sources, buying 800,000 shares. talked about possible acquisi-tions and said hold; Société probably around £75m against 2002m. There are hopes of better things to come and some even ponder the possibility of 1CI pulling something spec-tacular out of the hat, such as

an intriguing acquisition. EMI, up 17.5p to 1,220p, was given another whirl on takeover speculation and on the financial pitch Schroders and Mercury Asset Management moved ahead on the sudden re-alisation they may have been overlooked in the recent

financials surge.

Beers made modest headway. Bass experienced a two-way pull. NatWest Securities transport firm, fell 70p to 260p on forecasts of lower profits. Waverley Mining crashed 15p to 39.5p as it put its once highly regarded Montonhall coal mine in Scotland into liq-

Reckitt & Colman, the household goods group, continued to advance, up 9p to 832.5p, on talk of a US strike. Somerfield, the supermarket chain held at 180p, with MeesPierson hanging a 220p target on the shares, and Car-Sold because of the unresolved Carisberg Telley saga. The shares rose 8p to 792p. Insurances were strong. petright had that threadbare look, off 42.5p to 480p, with largely on trading prospects. talk ABN Amro Hoare Gov-Hays, the transport group, continued to score from UBS support, up a further 20p at 560p. Molins, the tobacco ma-

ett had turned negative.

GB Raff, one of the privatised rail companies, steamed ahead 13p to 171.5p on suggestions the group is trading above expectations and re-sults could be better than ex-97.5p to 645p on a warning last year's profits were over-stated. Eurodis Electron, a compowere 100p under-valued.

pected. One stockbroker apparently claimed the shares Umeco, an industrial fasteners group, gained 38.5p to 297p as ex-Burnfield men Brian McGowan and Clive Snowdon moved in following a £9.2m placing to buy a dis-tributor of glass fibre and poly-

Arthur Shaw, the troubled hardware business, rose 0.75p to 4.75p; Ashley Levett, the Monaco-based commodities trader who controls Richmond Rugby Club has emerged as a 12 per cent shareholder. AND International, paying

£1m for a map business, gamed 5p to 312.5p. Forminster, the Kookai clothing group, rose 40p to 125.5p following results. Jarvis, the construction group which is involved in rail maintenance, improved a further 6p to 270p. Stockbroker Killik say the shares are selling on a prospective multiple of 13. "This is", it says, "arguably too low for such a dynamic growth company".

Share Price Data

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/centings (P/C) ratio is the share price divided by lest year's earnings per share, excluding succeptional terms. Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares, ‡ AM Stock

Source: FT Information.

Anyons with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, Including its portfolio teolity, phone 0891 123 333. For essistance, cell our helpine 0171 873 4378 (M00sm - 500pm).

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14.00 43858 up 49.7 15.00 43889 up 42.8 16.00 43848 up 38.7

Taking Stock

Securities house Hen-derson Crosthwaite is taking analysts and fund managers to Israel next month to see the plastic moulding opera tions of Technoplast, regarded as an industry

leader. Since coming to market at 125p earlier this year the shares have drifted to 91-5p. Henderson is looking for profits of £2.4m this year, putting the shares on a rospective p/e of 8.2.

Shares of the 600 Group, the machine tool group, are a recovery buy, believes Henry Cooke Lumsden. The stockbroker has a target of 160p against 135p yesterday.

Profits this year is expected to be £11.1m, improving to £11.8m and then £13.9m. The shares have fallen from 300p last year. In January the dynamic growth company".

Jarvis is thought to have a big acquisition in the pipeline.

company warned it was experiencing weak markets in the UK.

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McGowan and Snowdon

Institute of Directors' Convention told why business leaders should be treated like pop stars

John Lewis boss defends fat cats move into manufacturing



unlikely ally vesterday in Stuart Hampson, chairman of John Lewis, the department store chain that eschews conventional capitalism in favour of

employee involvement, profitsharing and social responsibility. Mr Hampson told the Institute of Directors annual convention at the Albert Hall that business lenders should not feel "management guilt" ahout maintaining proper pay differ-entials between the boardroom and the shop floor.

"I don't see the real problem

cost of

IRA hoax

Michael Harrison.

plan into operation.

ready been cancelled.

priority passengers.

and Cardiff.

as fat cats'. What's wrong is that there are too many 'thin cats' in that it could not be right that in John Lewis has 36,000 emhusiness who deserve to be fattened up," he said. "As directors of companies we should have no problem in proclaiming loud and clear that husiness needs to reward talent and achievement. Wherever we look the most talented players are going to he

"No one cries 'scandal' about the transfer market between football clubs, about the huge sums paid to top sportsmen, about the fabulous fees commanded by the Three Tenors. Business is bound to operate along similar lines to secure a

Mr Hampson, who earned step towards making industry re-

most businesses, incentives and rewards were focused disproportionately on senior management at the expense of other staff who deserved to feel valued and motivated. "I firmly believe we need to find a

greater sense of fairness in the relationship between rewards at the top and those throughout the husiness as a whole. If more thin cats were having their contributions to success recognised and being fattened up we'd be demonstrating that wealth creation benefits all those who create wealth and not just the few who hold the wealth. That's a

piovees - all of whom are called partners and own the business with shares held on their behalf

through a trust. Each year every employee from the chairman down to the lowest paid storeman receives the same percentage of their salary as a partnership bonus. Last year a total of £82m was handed, out equivalent to 20 per cent of pay.

"I can tell you, if you want to show your workforce how well the business has performed over the past year, a 10-week bonus is a pretty clear message."
In his book, said Mr Hamp-

son, if you wanted to satisfy the

customer you had to start by putting the employee first. "If you think of employees as a re-source to be utilised as re-quired, to be discarded when imes get hard, to be down-sized or re-engineered, then don't be surprised if they behave like it."

Mr Hampson went on to warn that respect for business and business leaders had taken a major knock as a result of the fat cats debate. "Let's face it. The Greenbury Report hasn't put the matter to bed. It's just led to repackaging. The £1m-a year-club continues to recruit new members as long-term incentive plans trip in.

Michael Harrison

Labour plans under attack

Michael Harrison

The leadership of the Institute of Directors yesterday pledged that its annual convention would be an "election-free zone" but then proceeded to attack both the Labour Party and

to a lesser extent, the Tories. Lord Young, the IoD president, opened proceedings at the Albert Hall by saying that the business community would live with whichever party was in power on 2 May adding "and may the Lord have mercy on all

our souls". He refused to be drawn into openly criticising Labour but said that an increase in corporate taxation had to be on the agenda if it came to power.

Tim Melville-Ross, the institute's director general was less inhihited, attacking key elements of Labour's manifesto and warning of the uncertain future Britain would face under Labour. "There is so much uncertainty about what a new Labour government would do that really it has to be resolved

as soon as possible. Are they for privatisation or against? Are they for a single currency or

He also criticised Labour on its support for the social chapter and the windfall tax which he described as "retrospective, perverse, and introduced for the wrong reasons".

However, Mr Melville-Ross also took the Conservatives to task, saying that a re-elected Tory government would be "a long way short of perfect".
He said there were real con-

cerns about the way the Tories had managed the economy and the size of the borrowing requirement, nor did the IoD suppport Tory proposals for further industrial relations legislation to give the public the right to sue unions which held strikes in essential services.

Mr Melville-Ross said that whichever party won power, interest rates were likely to go up to take the heat out of the economy. There was also likely to be a tightening of fiscal policy to keep a lid on consumer spending.

Liffe Financial Futures - 42240

distribution company, Umeco.
Mr McGowan walked away from Williams
Holdings, the group he founded with Nigel

Fresh from selling Burnfield, the hi-tech en-

gineering group, to Fairey at the turn of the year, Brian McGowan and Clive Snowdon.

have bought into a small manufacturing and

Rudd, to go his own way with Burnfield five years ago. Mr McGowan recruited Mr Snow-don as finance director at Burnfield and then promoted him to managing director, while he was chairman. The partnership worked well at Burnfield. When they took over its market cap was £13m and by the time they sold out at Christmas it was worth £64m.

Mr McGowan's recent history at House of Fraser, where he is also chairman, has been less happy. He was brought in three years ago very much as the "golden boy" to float the company, but its share price today still lags some way behind its issue price. Last week Mr McGowan promised shareholders that if there was another cock-up at House of Fraser, he would fall on his sword.

No doubt this will be of comfort to shareholders in Umeco, whose biggest business ismaking aircraft refuelling systems. Messrs McGowan and Snowdon have reversed into the company by buying 5 per cent of the enlarged equity, following Umeco's acquisition of another company, Wellmar, and a \$2.2m pleasure and offer.

£9.2m placing and offer. Mr Snowdon tells me Umeco's profits are growing by around 30 per cent a year and they're looking to increase export earnings. They're also looking for a new head office, preferably somewhere near Stratford-upon-Avon, where Mr Snowdon lives.

Would you huy life assurance from Tony Blair? How about an endowment policy from John Major or a PEP from Paddy Ashdown? Continuing our series of election-related financial trivia, we learn from Cornhill Life

that, of 1,000 people surveyed, 18 per cent would feel most happy buying a life policy from Mr Blair, with 13 per cent for both Mr Major and Mr Ashdown. The female vote of confidence was lower than the men's for all three politicians. So much for all that stuff about Mr Blair appealing to the female vote.
When it comes to which chancellor you

would most like to look after your personal finances, Gordon Brown, with 6 per cent, beats Kenneth Clarke, with 3 per cent. Fully 80 per cent of those polled would prefer a "properly qualified financial adviser".

Barely a week passes these days without news of another high-profile investment by Prince al-Waleed bin Talal of Sandi Arabia. In recent weeks, for instance, he has taken 5 per cent stakes in Apple and TWA. Both acquisi-tions conformed to his reputation for putting

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

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Change of direction: Brian McGowan left Williams Holdings to go his own way

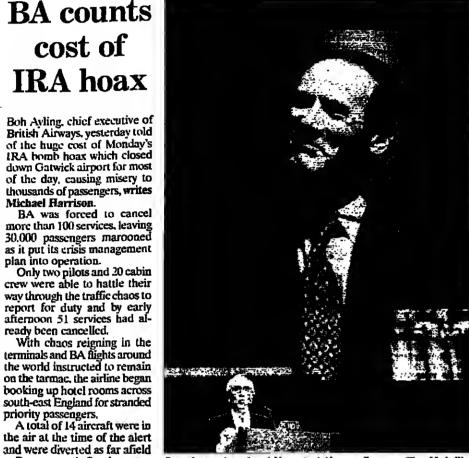
money in ailing but salvageable brand names. Now he has broken the pattern with the announcement of an alliance between himself and the theme-restaurant giant Planet Hollywood. Planet Hollywood is not in trouble yesterday it announced that first-quarter profits had tripled to \$101.6m - but Prince al-Waleed is jumping aboard anyway. He has bought 1 per cent of the company's outstanding stock and has paid for the right to manage 34 Planet Hollywood restaurants in 23 countries in Europe and the Middle East.

British Invisibles is launching its latest global campaign to trumpet the achievements of the

City, using the Royal Navy. BI's chairman, Brian Pearse, has adopted this 20th-century version of gunboat diplomacy because the Royal Yacht Britannia, which B1 has used for the past 10 years or so, is retiring. Bl has agreed with the Royal Navy to "use aircraft carriers and other naval vessels as a temporary substitute".

Roy Leighton, chairman of Bl's export promotion forum, says the Navy is keen on the idea. The modern ships are designed for wining and dining foreign decision makers, since most of the frigates and destroyers have helicopter hangers at the back (sorry, stern). So the heirs of Nelson have proved Napoleon wrong, we're a nation of financiers rather than shopkeepers after all.

John Willcock



Opening salvo: Lord Young at the podium as Tim Melville-Ross looms large on a screen Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Interest Rates

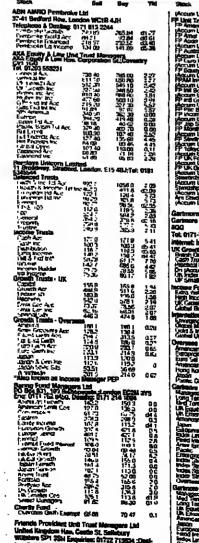
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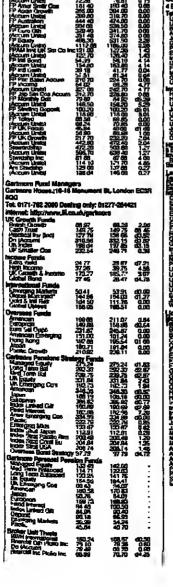
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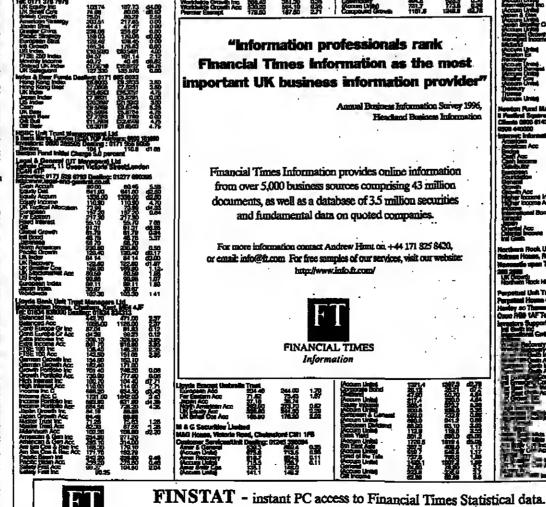
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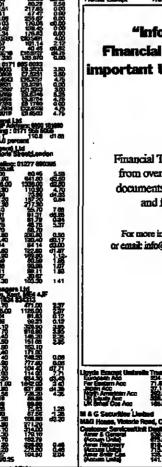
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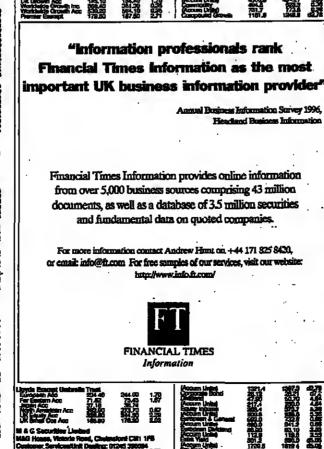
Industrial Metals London Metal Exchange LME Stocks 1490.0-83 2358.0-69 641.00-2.0 7460-70 5810-1S 1280.0-81 **Precious Metals** 373.00 228,75 Britannia 154.00 94.46 Britannia,5 oz 472.00 291.00 Britannia,25 oz 341.00 209.59 Britannia,10 oz 224 115 58 25 264 187 91 41 Agricultural ATA GIG 100kg LIFFE Shorne 109.0 145.0 71.12 unq 283.50







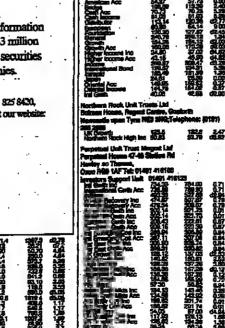


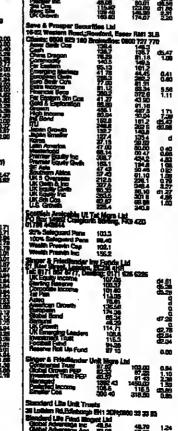


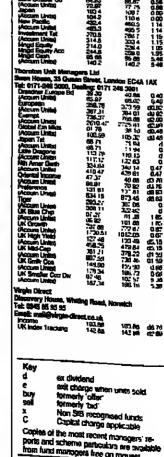
For further information, call Lecanne Gilliar at FT Information

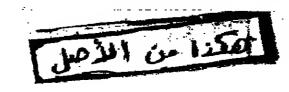
on +44 171-825-8430 or email: lecanne.gilliar@ft.com

Latest Unit Trust Prices









Istabraq

Racing

GREG WOOD

reports from Punchestown

The wild, impromptu party which followed Istabraq's win in the Royal Sun Alliance Hurdle

at Cheltenham was for many the

finest moment of this year's Fes-

tival, and the good news after

the second day of the hig meet-ing here is that it might have

been just a rehearsal for an even

The field for the Stanley

Cooker Champion Novices'

Hurdle may have been weaker

than anything you will find at Cheltenham, and the trip was

half a mile further than the

Champion Hurdle, but such

was the ease of Istabraq's victory

JP would have us believe.

well as anyone that a passion-

might have of getting a worth-

Istabraq's combination of a fast, ruthless gallop and the lethal fin-

last to first at Cheltenham make

him an immensely difficult an-

2.10 Cathedral (nb) 2.40 Double Gold

3.10 HEN HARRIER (nap)

BENERAD

HYPERSON

GOING: Good to Furn (watered), STALLS: Inside, DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for St.
Right-hand, galloping course with very still St.

Course: Is I'm W of town on A1035, Bus service from Beverley, station (Hull.—Semborough inc): Sm. ADMUSSION: Club S12; Junior Club (16 to 21-year-olds); 58; Tamesalls S8; Scher Ring S2; Course Enclosure 52; Picric area 53 or 52 per car, plus 52 per occupant, CAR PARE! Free.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNINERS: M. Johnston —21 winners from 115 mainers given a success ratio of 13 3% and a loop to a 51 level state of 30.24; D. Loder —
20 winners, 32 runners, 62.5%; 4518.15; J. Berry — 18 winners, 106 minutes, 17.9%,
-S22.16; J. Dundop — 9 winners, 44 runners, 20.5%, 42.086.

ELEADING JOUREPS E. Dunders— 54 winners, 21 tribes, 22.4%, -57.6%; E. Fallon.

23 winners, 178 Index, 12.9%, 438.36; J. Whaver — 17 winners, 121 index, 14%, 458.31; W. Ryma — 13 winners, 67 index, 18.4%, 420.64.

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Hen Barrier (3.10) won at Ripon on Thursday.

VALUTABLE AT REAL CHANGES, HER BERCHEC (2.10), Nobel Lad (8.40) & Ajayib (4.40) have been sent 240 miles by J Duniop from Armdel, W Street.

2.10 FULFORD MADEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 5f

better celebration next year.

to can My Gewan ich

on nan nay

1 is

1

2.00 PERTH HUNT BALNAKELLY CUP HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 3m

CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 addied 3m1

#0/11 DEPM BLUE (23) Mss P Roborn 8 12 8 Julies P Roborn 5

36/13-2 ACROSS THE CHRO MS3 C Farrishy 9 12 5. Mr M Bradhones (7)

19/105-4 DARKE CHARD MS3 C Farrishy 9 12 5. Mr M Bradhones (7)

19/105-4 DARKE CHARD MS3 C FARRISH 9 12 5. Mr M Particle (7)

19/105-4 DARKE CHARD MS3 C FARRISH 9 12 5. Mr A Particle (7)

19/105-4 DARKE MS4 (23) (6) J Bridge 8 12 5. Mr A Particle (7)

19/105-4 DARKE MS4 (35) (6) J Bridge 8 12 5. Mr M Particle (7)

19/105-5 DARKE MS4 (35) (7) J Bridge 8 12 5. Mr M Particle (7)

19/105-5 DARKE MS4 (35) (7) J Bridge 15 12 0. Mr M Particle (7)

2 SICHARD SHART (27) (8F) C Sorrey 5 12 0. Mr M Habos (7) 6

2 SICHARD SHART (27) (8F) C Sorrey 5 12 0. Mr M Habos (7) 6

2 SICHARD SHART (27) (8F) C Sorrey 5 12 0. Mr M Habos (7) 6

Vilasile 3.50 Ukuru 4.20 Toomuch Roosoon 4.50 He Knows The Rules GOINE: Good to Pren (watered).

Left-hand hurdle course; deare-of-eight chase course.

Left-hand hurdle course; deare-of-eight chase course.

Course and of clinique at junction of ACS and ACT. Barnham stelled 20, ASPERSHON: Club 213; hunter Club (12 to 15-year-olds) telled 20, ASPERSHON: Club 213; hunter Club (12 to 15-year-olds) telled 20; telled 212 free, Tatterwella 20 (under-10s free); Sheer Bing 55.

Le, under 12s free, Tatterwella 20 (under-10s free); Sheer Bing 55.

tion 2m. ADMINSMON: (Nub 2.13; Annual Control Street); Saver Ring Sh. 22, under 12s free, Tattersedia 20 (under-15s freet); Saver Ring Sh. 22, under 12s freet and 14 plus Sh per occupant; remainder freet. CAR PARE Pente aren 24 plus Sh per occupant; remainder freet. BLENGERED FIRST THIRE! None:
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS; None:
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS; None:
UNITED STATES AND REMAINS SOMETHER. SOMETHER 220 RAPIDE MORTGAGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m of 110yds

418210 GALANS E) £2,925 BRIDER 211 OF 111/059

418210 GALANSONI AME (45) (b) P Nichols 7 11 7 L Carpetins (7)

3-PSI/2 DRIMI BATTLE (21) W G M Turner 5 11 6 ______ J Promet (7)

PAPPE COLUMNY REPTER (24) 8 Parts 9 11 0 _____ K Garde

PERIORO HOURST DAME (46) 8 Parts 7 11 0 _____ K Garde

has style of Champion imal to beat. He is, without doubt, the second-best novice hurdler of the season, behind only the champion himself, Make A Stand, and also the only one with the potential to im-prove past Martin Pipe's hardler. "He certainly looks like he

could be a Champion Hurdle horse," Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, said. "He'll be able to go with the pace all right, and the drop to two miles shouldn't be a problem." Istabraq's victory came in just the second race of the day,

but still be was completing a double for O'Brien, successful in the opener with Idiots Venture. This was another testament to the young trainer's talent, since less than 24 hours earlier. Idiots Venture had finished that all thoughts afterwards were of the 1998 championship. Except, that is, those of JP Mc-Manus, Istabraq's owner. Or so third in the BMW Chase. Butthere was not the slightest sign of fatigue as he galloped away from his field under top weight.

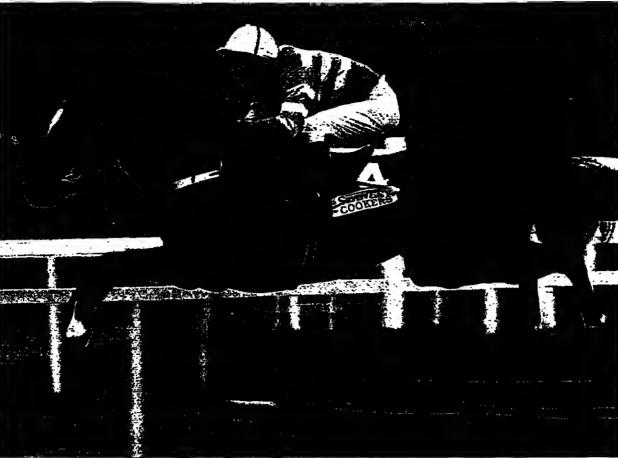
Even O'Brien, though, is not immune to sudden misfortune. "I really haven't thought about it," McManus said, Corket, his runner in the Heineken Gold Cup, the most though of course he knows as valuable race of the meeting, came to the last alongside Noy-an with the rest of the 18ate declaration of intent from Ireland's favourite punting son would spoil what little chance be strong field well beaten, but crashed through it at maxiwhile price for Cheltenham. "I mum speed. Trevor Horgan, suppose it would be a target,"
he added casually, "why not?"
Why not, indeed, given that Corket's jockey, was taken to Naas General Hospital, where he was unconscious on admission. His condition later improved slightly and he was ishing kick which took him from

responding to treatment. After Corker's fall, Noyan

was left to record a second suc-

3.40 Teofilio 4.10 Evening in Paris

4.40 Shaded



Istabraq jumps the final flight on the way to victory at Punchestown yesterday

Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsoon

cessive win in the race for a British stable, but unlike David Nicholson, who saddled Billygoat Gruff a year ago, Richard Fahey, Noyan's trainer, operates very short space of time. With Nicholson sending out at the humble end of the scale. Yesterday's winner is one of just

carried Noyan to Punchestown was driven by Fahey himself. "We saved him for this," Fahey said. "It's not often that your plans work out, but today they have. I don't know how Hal McGhee [the winning owner] is I just hope he's got a hig mon-

1100-00 DOUBLE 60LD (12) Blichard Edwards 8 Medium 8 12... 050-00 Will.190P (USA) (July IP) L Williams J Berry 8 11... FOREST SIGNAL Dies Brown) M Greben 8 9... 15-43;5 RED EMBERS (7) (John Pursel) C Daylor 8 2... 45-03 MANNERO (22) (CO Berber Lored J Hebraton 8 1... 600-030 MARIESMAR (17) (Dun Ermon Index) Don Ermon 8 0.0

BETTHER 11-10 Double Cols, 11-4 Colog for Robe, 9-2 Red Embers, 7-1 Wildenor, 12-1 Wilsele, 14-1 Manharo, 20-1 Mistartos, Marenessa, 25-1 Forest Manharo, 20-1 Mistartos, Marenessa, 25-1 Forest Manharotato 3 8 2 F (prob 2-5 (R Guen) 8 on

1996: Massersto 3 8 2 F (priol 2-5 (R Guerg & an Propert GUIDE)
RED EMBERES has not shaped badly, on recent rurs on the all-weather in handcape and, with a stayers' pedigize, could just surprise on this return to turt. A Newbury nursery winner should automatically be appead for a Beverley clother, but Double Gold's showing this turn have been disappointing, even when tried in bibliess bust time. Size by the sprinter Statistics as starring hight also be a problem. To be fair, she has been in a couple of segrit handless (Approvides notions of Winnerdy and last Pat Enderly on har sale. Raining Fair Replace is an all-weather variors from Physiarichs (where the week) at Continuel and he was a creatible second to Juliothe Min at Newcastio (7f) on his latest run on turt. He'll be hard to leade out of the ferrie, The others have a bit to find with Wildenoor being the most Best to morrow.

Selection RED EMBERS

3.10 GANTON RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 9YO 7f 100yds Penalty Value £4,581

1990: Copins Bull 3 8 11 J Rold 13-2 (P Cheople-Hyers) 7 min

FORM GAIDE:

HEN RARRESER's handlesp resing is sure to take a sharp rise after her tivree lengths win at.

Ripon a week ago. She sparsed away from Barisons and Biocrang Amezing after a strong early pade was set and this slightly sharper tro should not be too much of a problem. Jay
Owe-Two was only severing in this Ripon rise or and he had producing beating The Wyandostis line here. At Doncaster's opening fedure Norsone life Nicegay was a longth behind Jay
Owe-Two when third to Share Dalight, so he would seem up against it at levels with Hon

Harder. Beater has soope for further improvement after a narrow with from First Crance at

Brighton. Hasselt looked a shade woywerd as a juverale and won only a small rise at Ling
field from the status. Whether he has improved since remains to be seen, while Osa Caso

Lady may not be as sharp as the principals on her respiparatios. Tough Lasder was well

regarded early lest sesson, though he had to travel to Thick to open his score. He may sick

be best weakhed on his sessonal attampt.

3.40 MOORTOWN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 100yds Penaity Value £3,860

On MANDRICH E (202) U Harmon R Bestram 4 9 12 40- BESCRIVI (200) (R A Bestram 8 Medica 3 6 12 BLUE STAND II: Orangol 3 8 12 00-2 CHYSTAN GOLD (15) (Infoton 9 Malbacour) M Stocks 3 6 12 5- GHARB (154) (176) (Shelin Armod N Melitoury A Stocks 3 6 12

ENCHIAN (24) (Shakh Moramed 8 May 3 8 12... BEHT EXPRESS (R J McAday) 8 Hanbury 3 8 12....

five chasers in his Yorkshire

yard, and the horse box which

Arctic Camper to win the bumper, this has already been going to get his money home, be-cause he had a really good bet. Hurdle, takes on Paddy's Recy helt." No figures were men-tioned, but McGhee was smiling Hurdle at Cheltenham.

the half-dazed, half-delirious smile of someone who has just become a great deal richer in a

an excellent meeting for the British, and there may be more to come today. Quaker's Field, impressive at Aintree, is the form horse in the four-year-old hurdle, in which Circus Star, Kerawi and Red Rajah complete the British team. In the Champion Stayers' Hurdle, Theatrefurn and Escartefigue, both of whom did well in the Stayers'

D Marugh (7) 2 ...D 8 McCaba 3

Head injury for Dettori

Frankie Dettori has been stood down for two days with mild con-cussion after taking a bang on the head in a fall at Epsom yesterday when unseated from Move With Edes before the Warren Stakes. He will have to pass a medical examination before racing at Sandown on Saturday if he is to take the ride on Benny The Dip in the Classic Trial,

Dettori bad been taken behind the stalls on the Bill Thrner-trained five-year-old when the gelding bolted and unshipped him after travelling for a furlong. He walked to an ambulance and returned to the

weighing room with a cut on his forehead. Kieren Fallon has chosen to

ride the Fred Darling Stakes failure Sleepytime for Henry Cecil in the 1,000 Guineas on

Sunday week instead of stable-RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Cathedral (Beverley 2.10) NB: Grouse-N-Heather (Perth 3.00)

mates Yashmak or Reams Of

Verse who will work together at Newbury this weekend.

Forest GUIDE

Teerilitie, second to Hidden Meadow at York following a pleasing debut second to High Röller at Yarmouth, is bound to win traces, but this fast ground may not be lides. GHARDE itan just once as a suvenile and was well besided when tith of 1.7 to Heppy Valentine at Yarmouth Regionarth has been verifar well and could be fancied if lignaring his Brigton stop behind Cosmic Prince. Crystal Gold was behind Gharb at Yarmouth and jaced for the first time stress being gidded when easily brushed aside by Green Cord at Ripon a fortright ago. Oystal Gold can improve by that flare, as can Nerroniza, who was besten only two longing when this is Stratimore Clear at Remotion on his debut, Nobel Lad mede no show in the maden won by Latelprine at Notlingham and may need more time.

Selections GHARDE

4.10 ALWOODLEY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added fillies & mores 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,923 MCCELLYCUPOY (RESPEC (LED) (中) (Plan Enters Inches) Day Enters Insea 682 ... Kilm Tinkler, 3

7 0410-34 PORTRE SOPHIE (1.4) (bit Meureen Hardor) M Britan 6 6 2 Discussion (1.7) 8 4-00004 NOBLE CANDURE (1.7) U.C Reducit) 0.5 test 5 8 1 R Flower (5) 7 6 0 000 Macandon Muttani (622 decembed Rating 1.0) Macandon Muttani (622 decembed Rating 1.0) Macandon Muttani (622 decembed Rating 1.0) Macandon 4 7 12 Discussion 1.1 Decembed 8 PARISTO PORTRE (2018) Mortre (1.1) Decembed 1.1 18-1 Needwood Notkie 1890: Daring Closer 4 8 5 M Ferton 12-1 (D Morley) 18 ran

FORM GUIDE

TALLILIAN BELLE has retained her form on the all-weather since beating Shanghai Li) in TALLILAN BELLE has retained her form on the all-westher since beating Shangfal Li in February and returned to turf at Portefract last week to fill fifth bettind Pandolino. Evening in Partis: has been over verying trips on the all-weather and, though this trip should help judged on her second to Genume John at Southweil (7th, she did nothing on turf best time. On the Wildelde could Improve on her second run betind in The Money at Leicester Cleastic Recently's form was dire after a win in a bad maden at Hamilton. My Milite, second to Dunrowen in 8 seller last season, should be better for a recent thirsk run in Paint it Back's race, while Portitie Sophie second to Dunrowen in 8 seller last season, should be better for a recent thirsk run in Paint it Back's race, while Portitie Sophie second to found oil types of surfaces and was conying Jato more than better ture handled weight when fourth to Reman Dearson in the soft at Hamilton. Notice Camentine run better last time when fourth to Reman on the all-weathers. Worldwise Easie rate not won since a Aventile and has been well held on the all-weather of last white McGiffyreaddy Reeles meiers no appeal. white McGillycaridy Reeks males no appeal.

4.40 WOODHALL SPA HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,522

422- DREAM OF RURNIN (250) (210 Statish to Loter 9 7 5.54- Normania Controller (250) (210 Statish to Loter 9 7 5.54- Normania Controller (250) (200) (

T declared - 7 declared - 19 d

FORM CITEDE

ALAYTE is likely to progress after winding up her two-year-old compolign with a win at Chepstow. Regal Patrol, galded since last torm, has looked a tricky ride and he name beyond seven futurings for the first time. Present of horsel was a struck disappointing at two and finished up with a Marc on the all-weather (second to Mutiliar). Neumant Conquest at the type to improve, though his first I, warrisk periormanica, a ten-longth doubt not rotrotted and his seasons than to freedom Chance at Notinghem with have put him straight. He looks a better protocotion than either Jackson Fallic or Regal Reprintment, the lact showing promise as a two-year-old but hard to farcy after Folkestone four weeks ago. Selection: AlaYtis

4.00 TOTE CREDIT MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

Hingis in doubt for Wimbledon

Tennis

Martina Hingis, the world's leading women's player, could be forced to miss Wimbledon after undergoing surgery yester-day for an injury to her left knee suffered in a fall from a horse.

The 16-year-old Hingis will not play for at least three weeks. which cover tournaments in Hamburg, Rome and Berlin, and there is a question mark against the French Open - the second Grand Slam of the season, which falls just a month before Wimbledon.

"So far it is certain that Martina will have to miss Hamburg, Rome and Berlin," said Melanie Molitor, Hingis' moth-er and coach, who added that it was possible that her daughter would not play in the French Open from 26 May to 8 June. Withdrawai from Paris would leave Hingis with little time to get match fit for Wimbledon. Hingis was able to stand and joke after Monday's fall, but the

straighten her left leg.

Hingis was examined by specialists near her home in Switzerland before having arthroscopic surgery for a partly-torn ligament in Austria. "I'm relieved that my knee isn't

that badly injured," she said.
Last January, Hingis escaped
unburt when she fell from a
horse in Australia before going on to win the Australian Open. Although it would seem unwise for Hingis to risk her career,
Molitor has always insisted that
her roller-blading daughter lives
as normal a life as possible.
"Martina's tennis is only possible because the dozen't just ble because she doesn't just have tennis balls at the centre

of her life," she said. Five more seeds lost in the Monte Carlo Open yesterday. Jim Courier, Thomas Enqvist, Wayne Ferreira, Marc Rosset and Alberto Berasategui foilowed Pete Sampras, Thomas Muster and Boris Becker out of the clay-court tournament.

Results, Digest, page 27

Robidoux ends his long wait at the Crucible

Snooker

It took a long time coming but Alain Robidoux yesterday wor his first match at the Crucible since 1992 to qualify for the sec-ond round of the Embassy World Championship, The French-Canadian beat Brian Morean 10-8 for only his thirdever victory in Sheffield.

Morgan may have come through the qualifying rounds but he has had a useful season, finishing runner-up to Ronnie O'Sullivan at the Asian Classic last autumn, and was expected to prove a tough opponent. And the world No 49 from Essex duly refused to be brushed aside, wiping out his 5-3 overnight deficit to level at 7-7 before going ahead for the first time in the match at 8-7 thanks to a break of 72.

Mazrocis.

"I had almost forgotten when I won my last match here," Robidoux said afterwards. "Was it before or after the war?"

Robidoux is enjoying his best season since turning professional in 1988. He reached the German Open final last December and is one of a handful of players chasing a place in the top eight for next season. Jimmy White, the world

No 21, began his campaign with a 5-1 lead over Anthony Hamilton in the morning ses sion, despite a fourth frame that lasted almost 40 minutes. From 51-8 down, White took the frame 68-51

Johnson set to race in

Morgan also had chances to win the next frame but missed ished him with a break of 58 to get on level terms. The world No 14 then clinched victory by taking the next two frames to book a meeting with Peter Ebdon's conqueror, Stefan

Britain again

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Michael Johnson will make his first appearance in Britain for three years at the grand prix meeting in Sheffield on 29 June. Johnson, the first man to win the 200 metres and 400m at the same Olympics, will race at the Securicor Games over the longer distance against a field which may include Jamie

Baulch and Roger Black. The American's decision comes less than a year after he was refused a place in the 400m at a meeting in London for fear of demoralising his British rivals just before the Games.

Johnson's agent, Brad Hunt, said then that Johnson would not compete in Britain again while Peter Radford remained in charge at the British Athletic Federation. The latest deal has been agreed following Radford's de-

Linford Christie, who races today in the Qatar International meeting, has re-emphasised his intention not to compete in any more major championships. "I am through with big meets," the 37-year-old former Olympic champion said. "Physically I am still strong but mentally I don't feel motivated enough."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has defended its decision to allow the men-only meeting at Doha in the Muslim state of Qatar. "The IAAF has no plans to censure or dictate terms to countries where traditions don't allow women to take part in international competition," a spokesman said.

Qatar has tempted an international field which includes Colin Jackson and Butch Reynolds to race out of season with a budget of \$2m (£1,25m).

RACING RESULTS

2.05: 1. LORD OLIVIER (L. Detror) 13-2: 2.05: 1. LORD OLIVIER (L Dettor) 13-2: 2. Setuarstpark Piyer 6-1 to-fay: 3. Ther 5-1 to-fay: 5. Ther 5-1 to-fay: 6-1 to-fay: 6

NR: Prince Of My Heart. 3.10: 1. PALIO SKY (Pat Eddery) 8-13 fev; 2. Papen 2-1; 3. Wister Fink 9-1. 3 ran.

1%, hd. (J Duniop, Anuadel). Tota: £1.60. DF: £1.20. CSP: £1.85.

1½, hd. U Durlop, Arundell, Toler, £1.60. DF: £1.20. CSF, £1.85. 3.40: 1. PRINCE RIMSRO' & Horizon; 33-1; 2. Urgant Swift, 15-1; 3. Artic Courrier 14-1; 4. Pilec Creek 8-1, 29 man. 9-2 for Hazard A Guess, 1½, hd. U Old, Wroughton, Toler, £60.30; £8.10. £7.10, £3.70, £2.20. DF. £552.80. CSF, £430.16. Thoset: £6,873.62. Thu: £1.568.30. 4.10: 1. SUPPLY AND DEMAND (K Felfon) 2-1 [r-for; 2. Utlands 2-1]; f-for; 3. Sentite Swing 5-1, 10 man. 2, 2, ft. 1, Moore, Brighton). Toler, £3.20; £1.20, £1.40, £1.60, DF: £4.10. CSF, £4.98. Tho: £5.40. 4.40; 1. 1.4 MODISTE (K Fällen) 7-1; 2. Purchasing Power 100-30 for; 3. Menster M-EN 12-1, 1.3 stan. 1½, 2½, (Miss & Kelewey, Whiteombel. Toler, £12.50; £4.10, £1.60, £4.00. DF. £22.40. CSF, £31.39. The: £200.20. NF: Move With Eden, withdrawn rat £200.20, NR: Move With Edgs, withdrawn root under orders. Rule 4 applies to board pri only, deduction 5p in the pound. Indiget Not won. Pool of £3,919,95 car-ned forward to Beverley today. Pincepot: £341,40, Quadpot: £43,80, Pince &: £152,23. Pince 5: £58,38,

CATTERICK 2.00: 1. JOHANTRO (J McAuley) 9-2; 2. Millesime 10-1; 2. hor's Dead 10-1; 14 san. 7-4 fay Grand Chapeau. Hd, nk, (J Goldle). Toba: 55.40; £3.30; £4.70; £4.00. DF: £48.30. CSF: £53.13. Tro: £211.60. 248.30. CSF: £53.13. Trio: £211.60, 2.30: 1. FLASH D'OR (G Parkin) 12-1; 2. Hoppethily 5-4 fax; 2. Hapdeleyy 3-1. 8 ran. Sht-hd, 4. (M W Easterby). Tobe: £13.50; £3.60, £1.10, £1.40, DF: £10.40, CSF:

529.02. 3.00: 1. BALLPOINT (A Culture): 14-1; 2. Hosta La Vista 9-2 Jr. Inv. 3. Testagloe 6-1. 10 ran. 9-2 Jr. Inv. 3. Testagloe 6-1. 10 ran. 9-2 Jr. Inv. Sarrimental Special. 14. 15. (6 M Moove). Tette: 537.50: 58.80, 51.80, 51.80, 51.90, 52.30. DP. \$100.70, CSP: \$72.43. Micast: £390.00. Trio: \$156,00. 3.30: 1. MAN Libs on Roberts 6-4: 2. Mappy Ministral 6-1; 3. asibad: 5-6 tav., 3 ran. 15. (M Bell). Tette: \$2.70, DP: \$4.70. CSP: \$6.97.

5.00: 1. MUSCATANA (M HES) 12-1: 2. 5.00: 1. MUSCATANA (M HRs) 12-1; 2. brave Encoy 8-1: 3. captain Carpairs 12-1; 4. Abstonic Queen 13-2; 16 res. 9-2 for La Dolce Vita. 2½, ½, (B Hilb), Totas: £18.80; £2.10; £2.80; £3.40; £1.60; £58.50; CSF: £109.14. Tricast: £1,128.73. Tric: £274.00. NR: Who's That Man. Pleacapot: £176.20. Quedpot: £14.20. Pleaca 6: £121.81. Place 6: £25.77.

PERTH
2.20: 1. PENTLANDS FLYER (P Carberry)
7-4 fax; 2. Mennidi 12-1: 3. Sauses Menni
11-2. 12-an. 5, 6, (H hohrson, Crook, Tokes
22.60; £1.40, £2.80, £1.40, DF: £17.60, 2.50: 1. TAWAFU (R Gently) 7-1: 2. Bold

Statement 3-1 for; 3. Swandale Flyer 14-1. 17 san. 1½, 1½, 04 Hammond, Middeliam), Tota: 55.50; £1.70, £1.70, £2.90. DF. £6.40, CSF: £24.83. Tric: £57.70. NR: Prime Ex-

CSF: £24.63. 7nc: £57.70. NRC Prime Extensio.
3.30: 1. COLONEI. NI CHIEF (P Carberry)
15-3 Ji-fer; 2. Aak Mo Later 11.1; 3. River Unablion 12.1. 11 ran. 15-8 ji-fer; 40 (Copued)
Curtaria (Rill), 7i. 1/5. (S Nichards, Greystoles), Robe: £3.00: £1.10. £2.10, £3.50. DF: £12.00. CSF: £21.21. Tro: £64.80.
3.50: 1. AMOLAH (B Powell) 5-1; 2. Dutano 100-30 fay; 3. Ruchaelts Owen 20-1.
10 ran. 2, hd. (P Hobbs, Mirchead), Totas: £8.00: £1.30, £1.70, £2.40, DF: £23.10.
CSF: £19.81. Titass: £272.57. Tro: £141.40.
4.20: 1. ACAUGH SH (P Carberry) 11-2. 2. Nicholas Plane; 7-4 (Richead), Totas: £6.70; £3.00, £1.10. DF: £12.00. CSF: £13.95.

£13.95.

4.50: 1. PEGGY GORDON (Mas. P. Robern)
25-1: 2. Grosvenor 8-1; 3. Country Store
16-1: 4. Vallant Desh 12-1: 20 ren. 5-1 for
Enchanted Cottage (Sth.) 3½, 4. (Mrs. D. Tromson, Minettrop). Total: £2.40: £3.30,
£2.60. £5.20, £3.10. DF: £51.20. CSF:
£209.37. Trotast: £3,081.50, Tric: Not won.
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£.20: 1. ROYAL YORK (P. Carberry) 11-10
for 2. Birtadels (D. 1.3. Beau, Baselot 8-1
11.csn. 1½, 17, (C. Robards, Greystoles, Total:
£320: 1. This £9.70, NR: The Rosal West.
Place pot: £92.90. Questiput: £63.40.
Place 8: £ 63.82 Place 5: £42.85.

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BERTH . 2.00 Denim Blue 2.30 Meadow Hymn 3.00 e-N-Heather 3.30 Nonios 4.00 Nooran GOING: Good.

Right-hand course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yds.

Course is 4m N of form on AFA. ADMISSION: Members 512;
Tartersals & Padricck 57 (OAPs & disabled 54); Course 52. CAR
PARK: 55 (Pictuc area for up to four adoles), rest free.

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2.30 FUTURE CHAMPIONS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,000 added 3m 110yds

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3.00 RM C CATHERWOOD LITTLE BAY HOAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m

3.30 MURRAYSHALL HOTEL SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,500 added 2m 110yds

ion, 7-1 Crystal Gold, 8-1 Begarrat, 14-1 Nobel Lad.

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BETTING: 11-8 He Regner The Relies, 2-1 Mediator, 7-1 Vercoice France, 8-1 Califotrok, Swan Street, 12-1 Lord Love, 18-1 Global Decoer, Osci-lights GM, 20-1 Rall Of Tricks, 33-1 others

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the second of th

All-rounder who charmed a generation



Denis Compton: Handsome, debonair and a sporting hero

Shortly before Arsenal met Liverpool in the 1971 FA Cup final I was made responsible for bringing together members of the team that defeated Liverpool at Wemhley two decades

At a lunch put on by the Daily Mirror, a photograph was taken of them to be published alongside one as they once were. Of course, life after Ar-senal had been kinder to some than others. Joe Mercer, Freddie Cox and George Swindin had gone into football man-agement but the team's brilliant Scottish schemer, Jimmy Logie, was selling newspapers outside a department store in London.

Nobody needed to ask Denis Compton how things were shaping up. Still handsome and dehonair, he was seen frequently on television and had a

newspaper column.

However you look at fame,
Compton, who died yesterday at 78, is famous not merely for his prowess at cricket and footbali. Even people who never miss an opportunity to boast that they are utterly uniformed



Ken Jones reflects on the late Denis Compton, perhaps the most exciting batsman of all time, a man whose debonair image and cavalier approach to sport and life captivated an era

greatest all-round sportsmen

is a footballer."

Compton's

interest in games evidence of arrested development, associate Compton with stardom. The connection thrives in their subconscious and is, therefore, a measure of true fame.

The proof is in the records and the memories of the men who played with, and against, Compton, especially during the long bot summer of 1947 when he amassed 3,816 runs, scoring a record 18 centuries that included six against the touring South Africans.

However, it was not merely that Compton was a great batsman and, in the view of many qualified judges, the most ex-citing of any time. It was not just that be had nerves of hrass and a constitution that did not appear to require much sleep or bicarbonate of soda. Rather it was that - as John Lardner wrote of Walter Hagen - he was "one who succeeded as few

members of our meekly desperate species have done, in ad. . England has ever known... but justing the shape, speed and "as a footballer, I find it rather social laws of the world to his difficult to form an opinion of

Unless it was Compton's provided no proper test. He has friend, the great Australian all- a fine left foot, and clever ball rounder Keith Miller, nobody seemed to get more fun out of sport. Now he has gone, following from that Arsenal team of 1950, Wally Barnes, brother Leslie, Mercer, Logie, and, recently, Reg Lewis.
You may think this pedantic

and in the circumstances a little ungracious, but because Compton's 14 appearances for England at football were made in unofficial wartime matches it is not entirely accurate to describe him as a dual interna-

In an autobiography published 47 years ago, Arsenal's famed outside-left, Cliff Bastin,

dual international, Arthur Milton of Arsenal and Gloucestershire, but Compton's is the face that most people of my

generation remember. Apart from great natural ability, what Compton had above all else was an appealing person-ality. He took sport seriously enough but like Miller, who had

some hairy experiences as a fighter pilot, he did not think it to be a life-or-death matter. Denis, for war-time football Little about Compton, in his marvellous batting or his life, control, and perhaps if he had suggested much in the way of devoted more time to football, conformity, but unlike many of since the war, he would have today's heroes he did not embeen able to achieve his ambibarrass himself or the estabtion of adding a full cap to those lishment. An important thing he won during hostilities. As it was that people would queue for hours to watch bim play. I Denis, quite unspoilt for all his brilliant success, is undeniknow this to be true because I ably a better cricketer than he was one of them. You could not hope to emulate Compton but cricketing provess and good looks led to breakthrough in sports mar-

his improvisation was thrilling. When barely 17 years old I played against Compton in a Football Combination match at Highbury. I called him "Mister". keting when an astute accountant, Bagenal Harvey, signed him to an advertising contract with the makers of Brykereen. He knocked me over when going for the ball, and at the time Others soon followed: the Pulham and England inside-for-1 could not think of anything ward, Johnny Haynes, and a

verpot nto ke 'A legend with a film star status'

ADAM SZRETER

There were tributes from the worlds of cricket and footbail following the death yesterday of Denis Compton.

The former England captain Ted Dexter said: "I'm very sad to hear this. Denis was an inspiration to me. I saw him at Lord's as a schoolhoy and got his aotograph while he was fielding on the boundary. He was a definite genius with the bat. He adorned the game and we should mourn his passing.

Another former England cap-tain Brian Close, who played against Compton just after the war, said; "In those years there were two great players for England. There was Denis and there was Sir Len Hutton. The great thing about Denis was that he enjoyed life to the full. He was a reat, natural ball player and never took things too seriously."
The umpire Dickie Bird said:

1 shall miss him, everyone will miss him. Not only was he a great player but he was also a friend, a true friend of mine. He's done a tremendous amount for English cricket, he was always on band to help young cricketers. He was a tremendous ambassador for the game."

A more recent England cap-tain Chris Cowdrey, Colin Cow-drey's son, said: "My mother and father were close friends of his and this will sadden them. But be had not been very well and no one would have wanted him to suffer. He was one of the truly great personalities of sport, let alone of cricket. He conveyed a

sense of fun and he lowed life."

Compton, of course, also played football for Arsenal and England and a spokeswoman for Arsenal said: "The club would like to pay tribute to the great Denis Compton. He was a talented all-round sportsman and our thoughts are with his family and friends."

Sir Stanley Matthews said: 'He was a great footballer. I played with him many times in wartime internationals for England. I remember a particular game against Scotland when we won by several goals to one and Denis tore them apart down the left wing. I think Tommy Lawton scored three nr four goals

that day from Denis's passes." The current Middlesex cap-tain and England selector, Mike Gatting said: "It is very said. He was a legend at Middlesex. Everybody from the youngest on the staff to the oldest memher has fond memories of him. Compo was friendly to me and 🗼 always took an interest in my ca-

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COLUMN TOWN

reer. He was an amazing man."
The Middlesex coach and former player, Don Bennett, said: "He was a legend. We played Surrey in a three-day game in 1950 and 60,000 people came through the turnstiles, mainly to see him. He was the

draw. He had film star status." And the Prime Minister, John Major, said: "Those who ever saw Denis Compton bat have an imperishable memory of the greatest cavalier of cricket."



wanted, Hampshire's spirits quickly flagged as Paul Prichard the reconstruction, adding 97 for the second wicket, before Hussain had his off bail

swivel onto a bouncer. A tall man with a high action, the 21-year-old Cowan has the ability to generate good pace off a short run and he finished the day with figures of 4 for 35. He was well supported by Ronnie Irani, who did for Kevan James, bowling him playing hack, as well as for Stephenson whose

Connor's lessons

for Stephenson

Darren Rohinson at short-leg. don't want to bat until day two, a discovery Hampshire made But if Essex relied on team when they ended day oo 103 for 7. some 143 runs hehind. Havwork. Hampshire were almost solely reliant on the 36-year old Connor, currently enjoying a benefit year. To the envy of ing won the toss Stephenson probably contemplated some kind of ascendancy. Instead many. Connor has something of having dismissed Essex for 246, a reputation for being able to dismiss Graham Gooch, a dishis team were facing annihilatinction upheld when he had the great man, now in his 24th sea-

With Robin Smith missing due to an Achilles tendon son with Essex, lbw.

addition of their Australian import Matthew Hayden, were alvays under-strength. It was a fact Essex's superior firepower with the ball soon exploited. Ashley Cowan, in particular, proved a real handful, taking the first three wickets, including the prized scalp of Hayden, caught off his glove as he tried to

bal and pad catch was taken by

trimmed by a leg-cutter from Connor, who had by now changed to the River End.
With Prichard lbw on the

stroke of lunch for a fluent 65, the stage was set for Stuart Law, left out of the Australian touring party, to reassert his impressive credentials. Adding a rapid 53 with Ronnie Irani, be looked untroubled until he was lbw, whipping across a straight ball from Dimitri Mascarenhas.

It left Irani contemplating the belligerent role he likes best and one, for Essex at least, in which he excels. Having pummelled a couple of scorchers through the covers off the back foot, he was oot one short of his half-centuty when he tamely skied a leadg edge to James at cover.

That was Connor's fifth wicket and it was not long hefore he and Stephenson, having a helated bowl, polished off the tail, unaware of the ruin that lay



reports from The Oval Somerset 311-5 v Surrey

tion in three days.

HENRY BLOFELD

DEREK PRINGLE

Hampshire 103-7

Essex 246

reports from Chelmsford

It is three years since John Stephenson departed Chelms-

ford for greener pastures and

the captaincy of Hampshire.

Even so, be should still re-

member the perils inherent in

being seduced into bowling first

by an Essex greentop that claimed 17 wickets in the day.

some decent bowlers, a criteri-

on only Cardigan Connor satisfied for the visitors with his wilv

7 for 46. The second is that you

The first rule is you need

In one sense, it was a sensational start to the season at The Oval. On the very lirst day, with more than a week of April to go, Surrey used two leg-spinners, lan Salisbury and Nadcem Shahid. against some mostly determined Somerset batting.

In another, it was business much as usual, nn a slow pitch which was full of runs. Surrey's seam attack which had a somewhat boring, dilatory sameness about it, had a good work-out against a side unwilling to waste the advantage of batting first.

The influence of Somerset's new coach. Dermnt Reeve, was easy to see. If he can persuade his players to make the most of their abilities. Somerset will win more than live Championship matches this year. For 30 overs, Mark Lathwell

cut out those impetuous flourishes which have so often got him into trouble. Peter Bowler, their new captain, batted with sense and responsiblity for nearly two

and three-quarter hours and Richard Harden and Piran Holloway also put their heads down.

Surrey's four main seam bowlers, Martin Bicknell, Chris Lewis, Joey Benjamin, and Alex Tudor, all run in a long way and apart from Tudor in one spell hefore tea, did not look particularly threatening. They also bowled far too many no-balls contributing to the absurd total of 69 extras.

Four overs of Salisbury was the only variation from seam before lunch when he bowled Lathwell, who made the mistake of playing back to a top spinner. Salisbury had another 21 overs later in the day when the need for economy was least on his mind. As always he needs confidence to give the ball air and more of a tweak, when be will be a more dangerous bowler.

more in balance when, shortly before the end, Adam Hollioake, the fifth seamer, had Holloway caught behind and Mike Burns lbw in successive overs.

Surrey have appointed their former player Keith Medlycott as assistant coach, replacing Tony Pigott who left this month.

Surrey seamers toil Young impresses on debut

MIKE CAREY Gloucestershire 245

Leicestershire 99-3

They hoisted the Championship pennant in a pre-match ceremony here yesterday. Later, quite unscheduled and out of context with what had gone before, Sbaun Young and Jack Russell unceremoniously hoisted Leicestershire's bowling to all parts in a manner that the champions will not want to see

repeated too often this season. It was the sort of thing, though, that can happen in the best of circles on the first day of the season and allowing for various indications of rustiness and the odd fielding lapses, Leicestershire probably felt that dismissing Gloucestershire for under 300 on a good pitch was

not a bad day's work.

Alan Mullally probably thought so. When last sighted he was spraying the ball to all parts on England's bebalf. Yesterday under the gaze of David Lloyd, but more likely because

he is again under the tutelage alone. In their frustration, of Jack Birkenshaw, he bowled wickets and troubled the two left-handers, Russell and

Young, more than anyone. There was still not much evidence of any ability to bring the ball back into the right-hander but, until Mike Smith appeared in the evening, no one swung the hall much anyway. Mostly it moved off the seam, and then only under cloud cover. When the sun shone for lengthy periods, batting looked straightforward.

Thus Gloucestershire must have cursed the combination of early-season errors and inadequate footwork which plunged them to 84 for 5. That was their lowest point, not least when Mark Alleyne, their new cap-tain, found himself in no-man's land and was leg before without scoring to James Ormond.

Positive action was called for at this stage and Russell provided it, which probably eased any pressure that Young might have been feeling in his first Championship innings. Russell was soon busy dabhing and nudging as well as leaving entraggrantly as well as leaving extravagantly

Leicestershire bowled too short very straight, picked up five and were robustly booked and pulled for their pains.

Young has played League cricket for Fleetwood and toured here with Young Australia two years ago. When Gloucestershire were seeking a replacement for Courtney Walsh, his pedigree was vouched for by a trio of knowledgeable cricketers in Terry Alderman, Brian Davison and Dave Gilbert; but one straight drive for four off the back foot would have been enough for many connoisseurs bere.

On quicker pitches it is not difficult to imagine his forthright. strokeptay causing a stir, even at somnolent Bristol. Here both he and Russell were helped when Leicestershire, having obtained their early successes by bowling to a fullish length, degenerated to a foolish one on this pitch. Richards and Ynung helped themselves and added 112 in 29

Lekestershire have signed the Natal all-rounder Neil Johnson, who replaces the West Indian all-rounder Phil Simmons on a one-year contract.

Welsh on song

ROUND-UP

Warwickshire, the pre-season bookmakers' favourites to regain the Britannic Assurance County Championship, looked anything hat a side set to reassert their superiority in the four-day game when the campaign began yesterday.
The 1995 champious were

dismissed for just 151 by Glam-organ at Cardiff in their opening Championship innings of the summer, and then had no joy in the field as their opponents set about building a commanding

Darren Thomas took 4 for 62 as the Welsh county showed that they can bowl sides out even before the arrival of their overseas player, Waqar Younis, from Pakistan. The off-spinner Robert Croft, who is likely to be on England duty for much of the season, took two wickets.

Glamorgan restricted Warwickshire to a best individual knock of 36 from Neil Smith, and then reached tea with their opening partnership of Steve James and Hugh Morris intact. James was eventually out for 83 but Morris was unbeaten on 78 at the close with Glamorgan 195 for 1.

There were two centurious on the opening day of Champ-ionship play. Lancashire's Graham Lloyd was the top scorer - he was dismissed for 102 as Lancashire piled up a formidahle tally of 494 for 9 at Old Trafford to turn David Boon's first day of serious action as captain of Durbam into something of a nightmare. As well as Lloyd, Jason Gallian, Peter

Mike Watkin all passed fifty. Tim Curtis was unbeaten on 100 as Worcestershire made 286 for 3 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. The 37-year-old Curtis, a former England opener, announced yesterday that be is to retire at the end of the season to take up a full-time teaching post at Worcester Royal Grammar School

Martin, Glen Chapple and

Devon Malcolm showed the form that once made him England's most-feared fast bowler. taking 6 for 74 as Kent were did-missed for 251 at Canterbury. However, Derbyshire were 35 for 4 at the close. At Hove, Northamptonshire scored 288 for 9 against Sussex.

TODAY'S NUMBER

4

500

The number of career singles victories recorded by tennis world No 3 Michael Chang following his win over Jan-Michael Gambill in the Monte Carlo Open yesterday. He joins Boris Becker (who has 672), Thomas Muster and Pete Sampras in the 500 club.

Felix 1.45 2-101. Did not bet: C White, & Parker, †R J Blakev, D Gough, P J Hartley, C E W Silverwood, R D

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Essex v Hampsbire British wan town ESSEX - First Innings P J Prichard low b Connor ... Muscan & Connor 65
S B Law ith b Marcarentas 27
S B Law ith b Marcarentas 27
C thin c James b Connor 39
D J Rebinson c Ayres b Connor 3
D R Law a Reach b Stephenson 1
S J Man ithe b Stephenson 1
S J Man ithe b Stephenson 1
C BCT c Harden b Connor 1
C Covan c Hayden b Connor 6
P V Such not out 1
Extras 1515 not 1
Total 62 oversi 1
Fall 1 2: 2: 129 3-134 4-180 5-211 6-214
C-214 S-227 9-215

Bowling Connet 18-4-46-7; Milburn 11-1-51-0; James 14-2-40-0; Maccarennas 11-0-53-1; Udai 3-0-20-0; Stephenson 5-0-21-2; HAMPSHEE - First Implies
M. I. Hayden of Hyam b Cowan 19
J. S. Laren of S. G. Law b Cowan 3
J.P. Stephenson of Robuston b Iran 11
V. Scoth of Goods b Cowan 21
V. Scoth of Goods b 12 Law 21
V. J. James b Iran 4
V. J. James b Iran 4
V. A. Almest not on 4

Glamorgan v Warwickshire CARDIT: Glemorgan (49th), with nice first-landings wickets standing, see 44 runs sheed of Warwickshire (0). Today: 11.0. Varwickshire won toss WARWICKSHIRE - First hunings
"A J Moles c Shaw b Thomas ...
W G Krian c Shaw b Wartier
O L Henn c and b Croft ...
I P Ostler c and b Croft ...

N M K Smith c Shaw b Thon G Weich & James b Thomas A F Gles & Shaw b Watten 6-97 9-148. Bowling: Wation 11-4-32-3; Thomes 12-1-52-4; Croft 13-2-37-2; Dale 1-0-2-0; Butch-er 2.4-0-14-1.

er 2.4-O-1.4-1.
GLAMORGAN - First immings
S P James b Donaid 83
H Morns not out 78
S L Waten not out 78
S L Waten not out 93
Total (for 1, 62 overs) 195
Felt 1:190.
To bet: A Dale, "M P Meynerd, P A Cottey, G P Butcher, 14 D Shaw, R II B Croft, a D Thomas, D A Cosker, Bouding (to densit) Donaid 15-9-14-1; Small 9-O-43-0; Weech 16-4-57-0; Gles 14-4-42-0; Smath 3-1-23-0.

Kent v Derbysbire CANTERBURY: Derbyshire (4pts), with six first-innings wickeds standing, are 216 runs behind Kent (3), Today: 11.0. KENT - First innings D P Futton c Jones b Cork

Total (89 overs) 251
Felt: 1-7 2-23 3-78 4-79 5-104 6-105 7199 8-200 9-209.
Boutlagt Matcolm 27-4-74-8; Cork 21-8-521; Dean 12-2-44-0; DeFretas 21-10-35-3; Clarks 8-2-35-0.

DERBYSHIRE - First Innings
K J Barnett c Marsh b McCague
A S Roters c Llong b McCague
C J Adams b McCague
D M Jones c Futton b Headley
V P Clarke not out
A N Heythust not out
Extress 1859 Headley 6-0-16-1. Umpires: K E Palmer and P Willey. Laucashire v Durham OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire (4pts) are 494 for 9 in their first include against Durham (4). Today: 11.0. Lancashire won toss

Falt: 1-38 2-97 3-138 4-155 5-245 6-315
7-328 8-353 9-360.
Bowling for detail: Brown 28-5-93-2; Betts
20-2-13-1; Wood 12-1-59-1; Campbell 120-92-1; Bolling 17-3-82-1; Collingwood 122-45-3.
BURSHANE J / 8 Lewis, P D Collingwood, J E
Monts, N J Speak, "D C Boon, †N P Speagn,
M M Betts, J Wood, J Bolling, S J E Brown,
C 1 Campbell. Umpiree: G I Burgese and R Palmer. Leicestershire v Gloucs

LECESTER Leicesterative (Apts) with sever first-innings wickets standing, are 146 runs behind Gloucestershire (2). Today: 11.0. 8-204 9-206. Bowling MB:ns 15-2-47-3; Multelly 20.5-9-52-5; Ornord 15-3-61-1; Wells 15-5-46-1; Pierson 7-0-25-0. LECESTERSHIPE - First Innings

V J Wels tow b Stritt

CRICKET SCOREBOARD Bowling (to date): Smith 9-4-20-1; Lawis 5-1-17-0; Young 7-0-38-0; Ball 3-1-5-0; Al-lamp 6-4-8-2. Lamps three: J H Hampstore and J IL Bond.

Nottinghamshire v Wores TRENT BRIDGE: Worrestersiate (2015) are 286 for 3 in their first insings against Not-tinghometric (1). Today: 11.0. tinghomshire (1). Today: Wordestershire won toss

WORDESTERSTERE - Pirst Innings
T S Curtis not out
W P C Weston o Pollard b Banes
C A Hold o Bates b Evens
K R Spring c Pollard b Evens TM Moody not out _____ Extras (65 b17 w6 nb10)... lotal (for 3, 102 overs) -Felt: 1-87 2-101 3-203. rest 1.87 2-101 3-203. To batt V 3 Sotarid, 15 J Rhodes, S R Lampiti, P J Newport, A Shenyar, M Rawissey, Boulling (to date): Bears 24-9-43-2; Ranks 18-5-42-0; Bowen 21-4-78-0; Archer 15-3-38-0; Beres 13-1-33-1; Downen 11-2-32-0.

NOTINGHAMSHIPE PR Poliant, RT Robinson, G Parcher A A Mescrife, *P Johnson, M P Downson, TW M Noon, K P Bens, RT Betes, M N Bowen, P J Brass, Umpires: NT Plews and T E Jesty. Surrey v Somerset

THE O'AL: Somerset (Spts) are 311 for 5 in their first levings against Surrey (2). Today: 11.0. Somerset won toss ERSET - First limings
Lathwell b Selisbury 50
Trescothick c Lewis b M P Bicknell 11
Bowler law b Tudor 63 Total (for 5, 104 overs) ______31 Pail: 1-37 2-105 3-215 4-280 5-280.

To bat: G 11 Rose, A R Caddick, S Herzberg, K J Shine.

N.J. Srene.

R.J. Srene.

R.J. Srene.

11. Levis 15.4-1-76-0; Tudor 19-3-54-1; Benjarrin 6.2-1-28-0; Sefetyury 25-3-63-1; Hollionier 14-6-21-2; Shehid 2-0-3-0; Thorpe 3-0-8-0. SLIBREY: D.J. Bickneil, Mr.A. Butcher, †A.J. Stewart, C.P. Thorpe, N. Stehkil, *A.J. Hol-Roske, C.C. Lewis, † D.K. Sahigbury, M.P. Brok-neil, A.J. Rudor, J.E. Benjamen. Umpires: B Dudieston and J H Harris.

Sussex v Northamptouskire HOVE: Northamptouskire (2pts) are 288 for 9 in their first innings against Sus-sex (4) Today: 11.0.

J Capen b roomson
J N Snape not out
J E Enthurey c Athey b Robinson
Airam c Moores b Robinson
J P Taylor not out
Extres (64 lb12 nb13)
Total (for 9, 104 overs)

Pat: 1-18 2-55 3-62 4-146 5-164 6-218 7-253 8-253 9-259. Bowling (to dete): Drakes 24-5-77-0; Jan's 22-5-51-3; Robinson 25-8-71-5; Khan 16-8-19-0; Newell 14-6-41-1; Philips SUSSEX K Greenfeld, N J Lenham, N R Taylor, G W J Arhey, K Newell, Y C Drakes, "YP Moores, P W Jards, N C Philips, A A Khan, M A Robinson.

Umpires: A Clarkson and A G T Whitehead,

Cambridge Univ v Middlesexx FENNER'S: Cambridge University, with sight first-lenings wickets abouting, are 288 rana behind Middlesex. Today: 11.30. Andeleses won loss

Amoreste won toes
MEDDLESEE - First lendings
P N Weekes c House b Scheiffer
P E Wellings not out
"M W Gatting ret hurt
J C Pooley low b How
ff R Brown not out
Extras (b4 85 w8)
Total (for 2 dec, 84 overs)
Palls 1.49 2.324 Pate: 1.49 2.324, Did not but: D G Nash, R L Johnson, J P He-ett, K P Dutch, A R G Fraser, P G R Tufnell. Bowling: How 19-5-70-1: Schaffler 20-5-58-1; House 10-61-0; Fresh 28-2-110-0; Jones 10-0-51-0.

1040-51-0.

CAMERIDGE UNIVERSITY - First binings
JR Radedge c Pooley b Johnson 12
ET Smith low b Tuffiel 40
10 R H Churton not out 7
Extrac fivid 20
Total (far 2, 12.5 overs) 21
Total (far 2, 12.5 overs) 41
To bat *1.43 2-61.
To bat *1.43 2-61.
By Smith Replacement of the second of Oxford Univ v Yorkshire THE PARKS: Oxford University, with eight first-leatings wickets standing, are 214 nums bettind Yorkshire, Today: 11.30. Yorkshire won toss YORKSHIRE - First Inning D Mozon c Byrne b Wright ... P Vaugher c Futton b Better

Sterny. Patel 18-3-67-0; Bartanice 21-3-62-1; Wagh 14-3-60-1; Wagh 26-7-64-0; Byrne 7-2-23-0; Hudson 4-0-29-0; Lignicot ORD UNIVERSITY - First Unnings Falls 1-0 2-17. Yo bats: JAG Fulton, P.C Morgan, C.P.nut. tA P.Senni, L.G Buchanan, G.J Wright, C.M Bottather.

Boufing (to date): Gough 5-1-10-1; Salety-wood 4-1-11-1.

Umphres: A A Jones and K J Lyons. First Test (Finel day) COLOMBO: Metch drawn. SA Lanks won toss SRI LANGU, - First Innings 230 (H P TALLOGER) 103; Saqian Musima 5 89), PAGSTAN - First Innings 378 (LCANNU 113. Salan Malik 58, Saqian Musht at 51; M Mush 10348, 6-85). Total (for 8) 423 Fall (cont): 4-265 5-315 6-300 7-420 8-423 Serving: Calvid 11: 1-60 0 (4nb): New 12-0-41: 1 (1nb): Sactor (3-13-137-4: Mexican 39.1-9-94-3, Mutaba 30-5-6-11

المكذا من الملاصل

Liverpool aim to keep pride intact

Although the Graeme Soumess era is less than fondly remembered at Anfield, a European night during his term as manager provides an inspiring precedent for Liverpool as they strive against overwhelming odds to reach the Cup-Winners' Cup fi-

nal tonight. With Roy Evans' side trailing 3-0 to Paris St-Germain after the first leg of the semi-final, history shows that even the Liverpool of Shankly, Paisley and Fagan never overturned such arrears in Continental competition. When David "Supersuh" Fairclough completed an epic fightback against St Etienne en roule to the Champions' Cup 20 years ago, the French lead had been only 1-0.

Yet in 1991, Auxerre, leading 2-0, came to Merseyside to complete formalities in the Uefa Cup and returned to France shellshocked. Liverpool scored in four minutes and quickly levelled the aggregate score. Seven min-utes from the end Mark Walters ensured that they made up a twogoal deficit for the first time ever.

That, as Evans will recall from his role as coach, was with a transitional team who were struggling against all manner of lower-division visitors. It was also in a halfempty stadium. Tonight. PSG face a vastly superior Liverpool line-up - one with something to prove now that the Premiership appears to have slipped away and Anfield will be packed.

The strategy is sure to be similar; try to score early and see whether PSG can take the heat. The Liverpool manager has intimated that he will play Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and Patrik Berger together for the first time this season. Evans may also switch from a defensive trio plus wing-backs to a flat back four in the belief that the French might not relish a more "British"

approach.
"It's a tall order but we must believe we can do it." Evans said orghe Popescu is suspended.

Phil Shaw on the Herculean task facing Roy Evans team tonight

yesterday. "If we can get an early goal, we can get them on the run. If you don't believe you

"Normally you try to play a patient game in Europe, but we must set the tempo. The bottom line is that we've got to play fantastically and they'll have to be poor if we're to win."

Steve Harkness and Bjorn Tore Kvarme are respectively in-jured and ineligible, leaving Evans to choose replacements from Phil Babb, Neil Ruddock, Rob Jones and Dominic Matteo. Michael Thomas (knee) and Matteo (hip) face late fitness

The error-ridden David James is set to retain his place - Liverpool have no plausible alternative keeper - knowing that whatever miracles are mustered could give PSG an away goal and almost certainly the tie.

For the Parisians, who have perhaps even greater expecta-tions of the 21-year-old striker Jerome LeRoy than Antield has of Fowler, left-back Didier Domi is the only casualty. Their Brazilian manager, Ricardo, anticites a "much more aggressive" Liverpool than at Parc des Princes. If that proved the case, he added, it would merely create more space for his team to counter-attack.

In the other Cup-Winners'
Cup semi-final tonight Fiorentina and Barcelona start at 1-1 in Italy. Fiorentina will be without the suspended Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta, who scored their equaliser in the first Tottenham midfield player Ghe-



Former world heavyweight champion George Foreman greases up for a work-out in training for Saturday's fight against Lou Savarese in Atlantic City

Photograph: AP

Le Saux's resolve

Graeme Le Saux has refused to commit himself to Blackburn Rovers despite pressure from the club's owner. Jack Walker. to keep the England left-hack at Ewood Park next season.

Le Saux made a surprisc return to the Rovers side after being dropped and went on to score in Tuesday night's win over Sheffield Wednesday.

He was not prepared to rule out a move in the summer, however. saying: "All I want to do is make the most of my career in the time I've got available. I've not made my decision public yet, hut everybody is aware of the problems. I don't want

other things to affect my game."
He added: "It would be unprofessional to say anything until this matter is resolved with the club. You had better ask the people in charge about that."

Le Saux said that his "troubles" had affected his performances for the past few months when his club form has dipped.

"This has been going on for a long time." he said. "It's a situation that had got the better of me: it's been serious enough to put me off my game. But I don't want a reputation as a problem player. I was trying to cope with all that was troubling me as best I could, but it wasn't working."

Walker is determined to keep e Saux and certainly will not let him go cheaply. However, his decision to recall the Channel Islander has caused more friction with team-mate Jason Wilcox. The left-winger would not sit on the bench in midweek after being dropped and is poised to ask for a transfer.

Blackburn's troubles have heen exacerbated by an injury to the striker Chris Sutton, who suffered a hamstring strain and was substituted at half-time during Tuesday's match.

The Nottingham Forest caretaker manager, Stuart Pearce, is to remain at the City Ground next season as a player even if the club are relegated. However, he is not prepared to say whether he will remain as manager, although he admits he has made a dccision about his future.

"I will certainly he here as a player next season as I have a three-year contract to honour," Pearce said. "I have also made my mind up as regards whether I want to remain as a manager hut I am not ready to reveal

what my thoughts are." Brighton's plans to play their home games at a greyhound stadium in Hove next season could be put in jeopardy as the venue does not at present meet the League's criteria to stage

Old pals prepare for business in hand

Golf

ANDY FARRELL reports from Madrid

Once they had nothing more on their minds than trying to be the Tiger Woods of their day. Now if they resemble a couple of 40-plus chief executives out for a day's golf, that is exactly what they are, although it helps to be Seve Ballesteros and Greg Norman when it comes to

teeing up in the Peugeot Span-

Ballesteros is the boss of the event's promoters, Amen Corner, and asked Norman, head of the rapidly expanding Great White Shark Inc., to return to Madrid for the first time in 15 years as a special favour. The quid pro quo is that the Spaniard will play in Norman's Holden Classic in Australia Lehman had ended his record run of 96 weeks as the world during the winter.

uring the winter.

No.1. "I've been up there a long time," Norman said. "The best

game together, it is right that we should help each other out," the Australian said. "It is like Jack hood and new talent to come should help each other out," the Australian said. "It is like Jack hood and new talent to come making his first cut of the sea-[Nicklaus] inviting Arnie [Palmer] to the Memorial, and Arnie inviting Jack to his tour-

nament at Bay Hill." Norman was more concerned about attending his first bullfight

through. America was crying out for someone like Tiger. He has upped the level for everyone." Woods is only ranked at No.5, while Norman can regain the top spot by finishing in the top-

ten here. Like Norman, Ballesteros was long gone before Woods was crowned at Augusta and he has turned to the Australian's

son. "If one doctor cannot help, you try another," Seve said. He has had more second opinions than he has played rounds

recently. As the European captain, Ryder Cup matters are also on Seve's mind. He knows who he wants as a No 2 but he cannot yet name him, saying only that the candidate can speak both

to help set up the course. "There will be fairway for 260 yards and then only rough," is his plan to combat Woods. He will not decide on whether to be a playing captain until he picks his two wild cards on 31 August, on which subject he repeated "there are no guarantees for anyone". For the record, Norman thinks America will

Davies and Thomas out of final line-ups

Rugby Union

Jonathao Davies and Arwel Thomas, who contested the Wales No 10 shirt this season, will both be missing from their clubs' starting line-ups in Saturday's Swalec Cup final - the last match to be held at Cardiff Arms Park before it is demolished.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 7 Cincinnati 2: Montreal 5 Chicago Cutts 1: Coloradi 37 Florida 4: St Lous 6 Los Angales 4; Houston 12 San Diego 3; Atlanta 4 San Francesco 0

The United States will continue to field a "Tream Team" of NBA players for the 1998 World Championships and the

Basketball

Drugs in sport

midday on match day.

Football

time for the 2000 Olympics.

Davies, who is still recover- feeling some reaction to a knee ing from a dead leg and has played little rugby during the last month, will be confined to the replacements' bench as Cardiff opt for the 20-year-old Lee Jarvis at outside-half.

Thomas, who played his first game in two months for Swansea on Saturday, will make way for Aled Williams, after

ligament injury.

Twickenham yesterday confirmed that clubs outside England's top two divisions will not lose money following the with-drawal of Courage's sponsorship of the entire league system. The Rugby Fontball Union has pledged to "at the minimum,

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Hugh Thomas, director of the Missubishi Badminton Horse Trials which run from 7 to 11 May, anticipates tougher qualifications for next year's event after receiving an unprecedented number of entries.

Thomas this year made the controversial decision to limit overseas countries to five horses, but, even so, still has 45 on the waiting list. There has since been resentment against Blyth Tait, New Zealand's Olympic champion, for his fairly mild assertion that spectators would rather see the top riders with

Tougher qualifications in line for trials

Clipotty-Clop" with one. Three British riders - Karen Dixon, Leslie Law and lan Stark - are due to ride two horses apiece. Both Andrew Nicholson of New Zealand and Bruce Davidson of the United States have two horses listed, but they will only ride their second horses if one of their countrymen two horses than "Samantha drop out.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Yesterday

Tuesday UEFA CUP Semi-final excend legt Monaco 1 illiqueta 70: Internaporate 0 raggeçate: 2-3; Schalke 04 2 (Linke 68, Valmots 106) Tenente 0 (agg. 2-1, lafter gara timo).

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Turin):

O (a)2: 3-1. After ours time).

FA CUP Semi-final replay: Chestorfield O Mid
destrouph 3 (Bock 12, Reverent 57, Emerson
69) (a) Hirsborough.
FA CARLING PREMISISHER: Blockburn 4 (Berg
5, Sherwood 23, Le Saur 39, Récroft 58) Sherifed
Wednestor J. (Carbone pen 8): Levels O Aston
With O. Sunderland O Southernprint I (Distincted
22): Wirobloom O Chelses 1, Petrolou 13. 22r. Werderdon o Creage 1 veriesco 12: NATIONIMOE PROTIBALL CEARLE First Division: Igsach 1 (Section per 31) Manterer Cry D. Portsmouth & Michaelin pen 29. Bredbur, 37. 49, 89 Bansier 2 (Redeson 62, 79. Second Division: Blockodo 1 (Prece 57) Bernton C. Lutor U Bury D. Sockopor 2 (Bernett 27, April 1986) 68 73 vol. 1 (Botson 20: Wesham 1 (McGerys 77) Crews 1 (Obrost 57).

TTI Creve 1 (Johnson 67).
TENUENTS SCOTTISH CLIP Semi-final replay:
Namomosk 1 fileintyre 86: Dundee Utd 0 (a)
Easter Road, Edinburghi.
GN VALONIALL CONFERENCE: Manchesfeld 5
Howarth 65, Sorve 73, Askey 75, Datesmont 76,
Power 77 i Wolche 0; Morecambe 0 Starfondge
Corte 0.
ICES LEAGUE Provider Philadore Behavir Store.

Carte. O.

ICAS LEAGUE Premier Division: Beines's Stortford 4 Bornic, 3: Duhnch Hamlet O Dapenham
& Redbridge 2: Grys 2 Boreham Wood 4; St 4bars O Ayeshup C Sattorn Und O Ferbridge Serbs
2: Yearing 1 Startes 0: Years' Bourt 4 Oxford Cay
I, First Division: Balency 3 Wilderspring 1: Canrey Island O Ustradyo O, Layron Permant 2 Molesery 3 Second Orielates Serbing; Userbich 1: Catford Cay
I Startes 1: Doing O Borstond 3: Ware
Declared Orielates Serbing; Coher Row & Romford 2
Meteopolian Palco 1: Doing O Borstond 3: Ware
Declared Committee of Serbing 1: Taird
Christees: Epsorn & Eyel O Uninchantal 3.

INTRODUCT LEAGUE Promise Divisions African Symmetric Estatin & give of invalidation of the state of

OR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Americane 4 Salesbury 0; Cambridge City 4 Ashlord 0; Dorchester 2 Gloucester 2; Halesowen Town 2 Strangbourne 0; Sudbury Town 1 Chelerham 4, Middland Division; tikoston 3 Grantom 1; Moor Green 4 Sunton Coldreid 1; Shrpshed Dynamo 2 Biston 0, Southern 0; Heiston Charley of Williams Charles 1; Newsidon Charley of Wilesbury Sund 2; Newsidon Charley of Wilesbury Charles 1; Newsidon Charley of Wilesbury Sund 2; Newsidon Charles 1; JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Feinstowe O Great Yarmouth 1; Gorteston O Des 1: Haistead O Woodbridge O: Horwich & Parke-ston 2 Newmorket D: Lowestoft 1 Stowmarket 0; Wrotham 8 Fakentam O.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE PH Bridgwater O Tiverton 3; Chard O Chappenham 2; Mangotsfield 1 Caine 3; Paulton Rovers 12 Britatoru O. WINSTONGEAD KENT LEAGUE: Comitican

Sheppey 2: Deal 4 Whitespile 1: Furness 0 Beck onnorn 1: Greenwich Borough 2 Cray Wander ers 0: Herne Bay 2 Faversham 2. INTERLINK EXPRESS MEDIAND ALLIANCE: Storwch O Potsall Villa 2; Chasotown O West Andlands Poles 2; Impersite Victoria O Rocester O; Peranore 3 Bridgnotth 2; Stapenhill 2 Bold-mere St Michaels 1. UHLSPORT LINITED COUNTRES LEAGUE CUP Final second lag: Northampton Spencer 1 Des-borough 2 (agg: 2-3).

AYON INSURANCE COMBINATION Page Di-vision: Waterd O Queen's Pork Rangers O. LEADUE OF WALES: Bangor City 2 Caorses 1; HARP MATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Pre-mier Division: Deny City O Cork City 2: Bray Wanderers 1 Shelbourné 1. PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE-Forms Mischangs 2 Eigh City 1; Wick Acade-my 1 Clochnaouddin 1.

Phil Mickelson made a superb shot to Ice Isockey advance to the American finals of the Andersen Consulting World Champion-ship of Golf yesterday and then was beat-en by one that was almost as good. With

winds gusting from an approaching storm, Davis Love III out his tee shot within two feet of the hole on the sec-ond play-off hole and knocked in the birdle put to beat Mickelson for the US title in the match-play event. Love's vic-tory on the Great Waters course in east Georga sends him to play the European Japanese and International champions in the world finals next January at Scotsdale, Arzona,
Ampersen constitutina word.

Ampersen constitutina word.

Onserve technique, Georgia i Semi-finale.

Il Love III bit 1 Lehrun 3 md 2; P Michologo
bit F Couples one up. Planat: Love bit Michologo
on 1-up.

2000 Sydney Olympics, the NBA deputy comissioner, Russ Granik, said Gavin Featherstone, the former England and Hounstow defender, who, during his Leading anti-doping researchers in Lau-sanne, Switzerland, said yesterday they are close to developing reliable tests for previously undetectable drugs in time for the 2000 Chambion Sheffield United's First Division match at home to Stoke City tomorrow night has now been designated all-ticket af-ter increased demand for discounted seats. No tickets will be on sale after

Garin Featherstone, ure comme his controversal coaching career took South Africa to the Atlanta Opmpics and the USA to Los Angeles games but has been consistently ignored by England's men, has been appointed to coach the England women's Under-21 squad to go to the World Cup in Korea in September.

UNDER-21 TRAINING SQUAD (for World Cup in Korea in September). Liberton, K Bowdon, P Willier, L Turney, K Sharisad and C Voss (Balsam Lakester). J Blimson, K Moort, R Walker, L Wright & S Wright (Otton), A Bishop, C Gamer, J Kelso and K Welste (Hightown), L Ctark (Sunderland Bedans, M Clewlow (Canterbury, J Flettober and F Greenbarn (Loughtonough Studens), A Goldsmith (Petroorugh) in Hannah and L Hayman ISutton Coldeld), L Hoster, N Westoer & L Wooding (Chelmstod), D Marston-Smith (Gholm), L Palmer (Cohrigh), H Richardson (Shenood), L Innae (Bradford Swithonbarid and K Raberts (Slucharts).

oresident and general manager of the Los Angeles Kings, the National Hock-ey League team, in an executive shake-

up, Taylor, 41, replaces both general manager Sam McMaster and chief hock-ey operations officer, Rogle Vachon.

PUDGES

ZETTERS (Dividends for matches played 19
Agril). Treble chance: 24pts: £33.40, 23;
£3.50 (two chidends only). Four draws:
£4.00. Eight homes: £34.60. Four manyer
(paid on three £10.00. Lucky manubers: 16
35 12 29 13 25. LTTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £251.50, 23 £13.20 (two dividends only). Four chance: £3.15. 10 borners £1,895. Five awayer (part on four) £06.35.

Rugby League

crug by League Crus Morley, the St Helens forward, will be free to play at Wernbley after being deared of a suspected high tackle in Sunday's win over Warrington. Saints' Silk Cut Challenge Cup final opporents, Bredford, will heve to play in unfamiliar amber shins after losing the toss to resolve a colour clash. The new Castleford coach, Stuart Raper, who armes at the club today, has appointed fellow-Australian Shane Flanagan as his assistant. Shane Flanagan as his assistant.

Rugby Union The Rugby Union

The Rugby Football Union has appointed Nick Burning as its new national referee development officer. Burning, a
35-year-old sales manager, has worked
as a training officer win referees in the
East Midlands. He replaces Stave Griffiths. Coin High, the former Test match
referee, has taken on a new post as international development officer, managing ternational development officer, managing the development of England's top offi-

Darragh O'Mahony, Moseley's tratand winger who has been attracting the st-tention of several First Division clubs, has pledged his future to the Courage League two side by signing a new two-year contract.

match the levels of this season". SPORTING DIGEST

The Scottish Rugby Union will send a 20-strong party of players to New Zealand this summer to gain experience of rugby in the world's strongest country. The Scottish players will be under the general direction of Kewin Greene, the New Zealander who has coached Glasgow and Glasgow Academicals over the last two seasons. The alm is that the players will gain experience, training with and representing the clubs to which they will be attrached.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (New Zealand toer): Altieum (Boroughmain), Reed, Michaen (both Force), Fallow (Felse), Union), Bullow (Nest of Scotland, Michaelle Stating County), Bean (Nest of Scotland, Bullest), Palamen (Boroughmain, Rest), Palamen (Boroughmain, Elliot (Hewick), Palametor, Hayger (both Dundee), Burns (Boroughmain, Flogishari (Suring County), Sinotals (Messoniers).

Snooker BATELASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Shef-field) First round: A Robidour (Can) bt B Mor-gan (Eng. 10-8; S Lee (Eng.) bt N Bond (Eng. 10-8; J Watterns (The) leads G Dott (Soo) 6-

Agres Kovacs of Hungary broke her own European 200 metres breaststroke long-course record with a time of two minutes 25.31 seconds at a gala in Bu-dapest yesterday. The Hungarian Swim-ming Federation said Kovacs had improved on the 2:26.57 she set at the Adanta Chympics on 23 July last year Adanta Olympics on 23 July last year when she claimed the bronze medal.

Temmis

MONTE CARLO OPEN Second round: R Kglook (Neth) by M Sach (Ger) 6-3 6-0; M Philippouses (Nes) by J Courier (US) 7-6 7-5; A Coste
(Sp) by S Desseld (C2 Reps) 8-3 6-3; B Librarch
(C2 Reps) by T Engelst (Swi) 7-5 4-6 6-3; C Rupd
(Mor) by Y Kathariov (Rus) 8-4 2-6 6-4; A Corretis (Sp) by C Prointe Fit 6-4 6-3; A Michaelan
(Ulv) by F Mentilla (Sp) 6-2 8-4 8-0; C Coste

(Sp) bt W Ferneira (SA) 5-4 7-8; E Alvarez (Sp) bt A Berasstagu (Sp) 5-3 3-6 6-4; O Varal-(Cr Rep) bt M Rosses (Swd) 7-6 1-1; M Ros-(Chile) bt A Gaudenz (ft) 6-2 6-2; S Bruguera (Sp) bt J Stemachik (Meth) 6-4 6-4; A Boeszeh (Fr) bt R Fusien (t) 3-6 8-4 6-2; C Moya (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-1 4-6,9-1.

tt F Clavet (Sc) 6-1 4-6,6-1.

US MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Driende) First round: M Cheng (US) bt. J Gernbet (US) 6-3 6-3; A O'Brean (US) bt. J Gestribet (US) 6-2; C Woodfulf (US) bt. J Franc (Ag) 4-6 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt. J Van Horsk (Be) 6-3 7-8; F Medigari (Bea) bt. M Medider (US) 7-6 7-8; M Momen (Swe) bt. G Radux (Fr) 7-5-2-1 (ref); M Filippini (Ung) bt. W Black (Zim) 8-4 7-6; G Stafford (Sk) bt. T Champion (Fr) 6-2 6-1; J A Vidoca (Sp) bt. L Jensen (US) 6-2 6-2.

BUDAPEST LOTTO WOMEN'S OPEN First round: E Wagner (Ge) bt R Zubakova (Slovek) 3-6 6-4 6-3; N Decty (Fr) bt V Csurgo (fung) 7-5 6-3; J Kauger (SA) bt R Kuti Kies (Hung)

Football 7.30 unless sta Eutopean Cup-Ivreners c SEME-FINALS SECOND Leg Florentiae v Berceloge (7.45) Liverpool v Paris St-Germelo

FA CARLING PROMERTINE NATIONINIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Watford v Chestorijeld (7,45) . GM VALOUTH CUP FINAL Phys legt Leads List v Che-Faraborough v Wolding (7,45)

13 Palace. ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Enfeld v De-gentum & Reducige O. 450; Hachin v Sutton Uni. Second Division: Challons St. Peter v Bansted

(7.45),
UHBORD LENGUE Primiter Division: Boston (vol.
v Spennymoor: Colwyn Bay v Merine, Frint Division: Agingh Lied v Marioci. President's Cap 6.
Ral fast larg Rurcom v Blyd Spenutis (7.45).
OR BARTENS LEAGUE Primiter Divisions Grou-CHARTEN LEAGUE Primiter Divisions Grou-State v Athersons.
Winstrom Each (ENT LEAGUE) Beckenham v Coctamin (J.C.): Cartoshay v Shoppey (7.45); Stade Groon v Herné 18ty (7.45).

6-2.6-4; C'Torrers-Valero (Sp) bit S Dopler (Aub 6-3.8-2; LTA SPRING SATELLITE TOURRAMENT Bournemouth) New 9 singles first receds in Wasi (GB) bit P Hand (GB) 6-3.8-3; A Stran-brin (Sevi) bit C Auffrey (Fr) 6-3.6-3; J Christen (Fr) bit M Lee (GB) 6-1.2-8 E-4.7 Stryman (SA) IT I Bettes (GB) 6-3.6-4; Neutroulier (Auf) bit P Langeard (Den) 7-6.6-2; R Laverpare (Fr) bit P Langeard (GB) 6-2.7-8; C Bedcher (GB) bit II Seosford (GB) 6-2.7-8; C Bedcher (GB) bit II Seosford (GB) 6-2.7-8; C Bedcher (GB) bit II Sprins (GB) 6-4.6-2; I Milligan (GB) bit II Neutran (GB) 6-4.6-2; I Milligan (GB) bit II Neutran (GB) 6-4.6-2; I Milligan (GB) bit II Neutran (GB) 6-1.6-0. Winneam's clariples ae-cad rounds 0 Vandecande (Bel) bit A Janos (GB) 6-4.6-4; I Ward (GB) bit A Schartstwert (Ge) 6-2.6-2; L Woodroffe (GB) bit P Russegger (Aut) 6-2.6-2; L Woodroffe (GB) bit P Russegger (Aut) 6-2.6-3; In Rissen (Welf) bit B Auer (Aut) 6-3 8-1; L Ahi (GB) bit C Musophino (Arg) 6-1.6-4.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Produce Division: Sharurock Rovers v Boharu-ans (7.45).

ans (?..40).

PORTINE LEAGUE First Division: Leacester v thur-densfield (7.0). Second Division: Grimzby v York (?.0); Mansfield v Burnley (?.0). Rugby Union Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Ippach v Coventry (7.30).
PREMICE LEAGUE KNOCK-OUT CUP: Sheffield
v Hull (7.45).

Other sports



Survival is the priority for Juninho

Football

SIMON MULLOCK

Juninho yesterday promised to unleash the full scope of his Brazilian hrilliance in a hid to end Middlesbrough's 121-year wait for a trophy, but admitted that Premiership survival re-mains his top priority.

The 22-year-old midfielder understands the significance of Middleshrough's passage into their first-ever FA Cup final and ley next month.

fleeting moment of glory pales into insignificance compared to the fight to stay in the top-flight and helieves that the team Bryan Robson built for £26m will have to win three of their last five matches to remain in the hig time.

Juninho, once again in bril-liant form as Middlesbrough ended Chesterfield's dream

Taylor warns on sportsmanship

Gordon Taylor, the chief exec-utive of the Professional Footballers' Association, yesterday urged members to be mindful of their role in setting an example after Ruud Gullit joined Arsène Weoger in criticising players who break the game's unwritten code of gentlemanly conduct in England.

Taylor said: "I think it is a good time to remind all players to keep setting the best sporting stan-dards no matter what is at stake."

Chelsea's manager, Gullit, took up Wenger's theme after Vinnie Jones, Wimbledon's captain, launched a long throw in the closing minutes of their 1-0 London derby defeat oo Tuesday. In line with what has become common practice. Jones should have thrown the ball to Chelsea, who had kicked it off when their goalkeeper, Craig Forrest, needed treatment for an injury.

But he also realises that a

proving his own team's chance

of escaping relegation. Arsenal

players were furious with Sutton

as the throw-in had been con-

ceded so that Stephen Hughes

could be treated for an injury.

oot seen either the Suttoo or

Jones incident yet these are

clearly worrying instances. We've all done a lot of work get-

ting the game a good name for

sportsmanship in this country.

We woo the Fair Play award at

Euro 96, English clubs are high

in the table for good behaviour

and we've earned an extra place

in the Uefa Cup next season."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Taylor said: "Although I've

we lost to Leicester in the Coca-Cola Cup final and then to Sunderland. But for now we have to concentrate on the important matter of the League. think we have to win two games from the four we have away from home and win our one home game as well to stay up." The incident happened three days after Chris Sutton, the

The survival bid begins at Tot-tenham tonight, but there is no doubt that Juninho is delight-ed to be locking horns with the likes of Gianfranco Zola, Blackburn striker, forced Arse-Roberto Di Matteo and Franck nal to concede a corner from which Rovers scored an injury-time equaliser at Highbury, Leboeuf when he returns to the capital on 17 May for the final. ending Arsenal's hopes of the Premier League title and im-

FA Cup is one of the most im-

We showed that when we get

back to midfield to the forwards

haven't been very happy because

then we are a good team.

"It is very good for Middlesbrough that we are through to the final and that we are play-ing Chelsea. The FA Cup final will be much better than the Coca-Cola Cup final I'm sure, because Chelsea play football. It should be open but that's the English way I just hope we can win it this time," Juminho said.

It is a view shared by the Dan-ish striker Mikkel Beck, who opened the scoring against Chesterfield: "It's certainly time that Boro won something. I thought we were unfortunate not to have won the Coca-Cola Cup at Wembley but now we have a second chance and against a team that wants to play football."



Michael Stich finds It tough going during his 6-3, 6-0 defeat by Richard Krajicek in the Monte Carlo Open yesterday

Photograph: Reuter

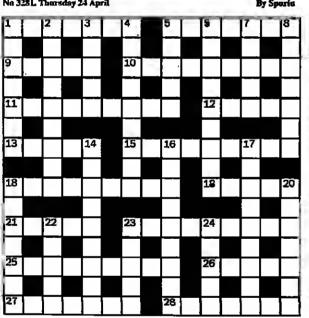
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- Energy required by neon lighting in Georgian city is 21 shown below (7) Golf at Oxford - it involves 23 Recycling centre where
- a lot of driving (5-2) Indication of agreement by evchelles assembly (5) 10 Bridge partnership in row after bill's presented for drink (5.4)
- 11 A new trademark used in Australia is similar (9)
 12 Herb's age we have been told (5)
- 13 Part of play audience will have watched." (5) 15 Sketch for which Association attracts silly rebuke
- 18 Not having completed dis-tance, talk of changing ul-tra-slow vehicle (4.5)

HATTS IN CONTRACT FAIR FRANCE FRANCE

19 Date with oriental commander in public bouse (5) 8

Receipt covering £1, something kept as a souvenir (5) you've to use metre from

now on? (9) 25 Extremely difficult woman's clean round the bend! (9) 26 Attitude needed in busi-

ness in the city (5) Pasture fellow leased out, featured in advertising 28 Money used in old court.

now obsolete (7) Kiss mostly greeting exam

success - mark of 60 or 65? Small oumber requiring plainer sort of type face (9)

Piece from Saudi orchestra, in sound only (5) Political embarrassment associated with illegally obtained drug in Ohio (3.6) Puzzle randomly encrypted by unusual symbols, primarily (5)

Surpassingly excellent book turned out to he indi-Food processing plant out-side capital's subject to ban

Introduce new recipe for crepe produced by French Working to unscramble clue, initially formidable

feat? (9) 16 NUT create upset, making pronouncement (9)
17 Intense sort of reverence a

fellow must keep in proportion (9) 18 Harm's done, unfortunately, by a trainee lawman (7) 20 Great suspicion said to occasion retreat? (7) 22 Meal ticket, one conveying

a right to get some grub? 23 Odour that is associated with hospital department

24 Emhroiderer's knot featured in picture books (5)

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Compton the corinthian dies at 78

DEREK PRINGLE

Cricket Correspondent

In an era where cricketers are becoming more faceless by the season, the passing of Denis Compton at the age of 78, will be mourned by all those who believe sportsman should passionately embrace more than the sport itself. Compton may have been a fine foothaller and an even better cricketer, hut he embraced life in such a way that neither dominated his life.

Having joined Arsenal as a 17-year-old in 1935 he made his first-class debut for Middlesex a year later, scoring 1,000 runs in the season. The following year he made his debut for England, the first of a 78-cap career that saw him score 5,807 runs at an average slightly over 50. As a batsman, he was as nat-

ural as summer dew, which he often encountered at cricket grounds, still wearing his dinner jacket having not had a wink of sleep. He may have been a pro-fessional, but the amateur ethos that burned within, and one passionalely shared by his Middlesex and England colleague Bill Edrich, went far beyond the possession of three initials.

Compton, a brilliant impro-viser of strokes, reckoned that if you had talent you could score runs with the leg of a chair. He never quite went to that extreme, but with a habit of mislaying his bat, many of his deeds were often accomplished with the hlade of another. Indeed, his last away century for Middlesex against Essex at Leyton was scored with a borrowed bat, a milestone he rattled up in two and a quarter hours.

According to those he played

dest among delesar & England

Dents Compton 1918-1997

with, his range of stroke was apparently only exceeded by the optimism of his running between the wickets, when he would often wish his partner luck. It was a habit Trevor Bailey once described as "merely the basis for negotiation", and one which cost many their wicket.

cricketer, a tough fighter, and a hloody good hloke," said Doug Insole, the current president of Essex and the club's captain durmg the latter half of Compton's career.

"However, he could be unre-

hable," Insole continued, "I once

sent him a postcard a day for three weeks to remind him that he was playing in a charity match for me." Compton turned up all right, but he was also expected at two other matches that day. Like many of his era, Compton had difficulty in understanding some of the methods used by cricket's modern generation. He once told Graham Gooch - one of the few current players to have

him - to "forget the helmet and get some Brykreem". But although his deeds are rooted in a golden past, his sudden death after a hip operation

scored more first-class runs than



complicated by diabetes will have touched many. For those that were lucky enough to see him play, the memories will surely remain undimmed.

However, we need not get too. A morose. As someooe rightly pointed out when the Tannoy at Chelmsford brought us the bad news, "There'll be a hell of a party up there wheo he meets up with old Bill Edrich."

Obituary, page 16

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